

NO. 329

Roy Rogers

TRIGGER





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TRIGGER

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE US TO DRIVE THESE MARES TO THEIR SUMMER RANGE, CURLY?

BEST PART OF TWO DAYS--- IF NONE OF 'EM GET AWAY FROM US!



HI! THERE GOES ONE NOW! HOLD THE BUNCH, PETE, WHILE I CHASE THIS SPOOKY FILLY!



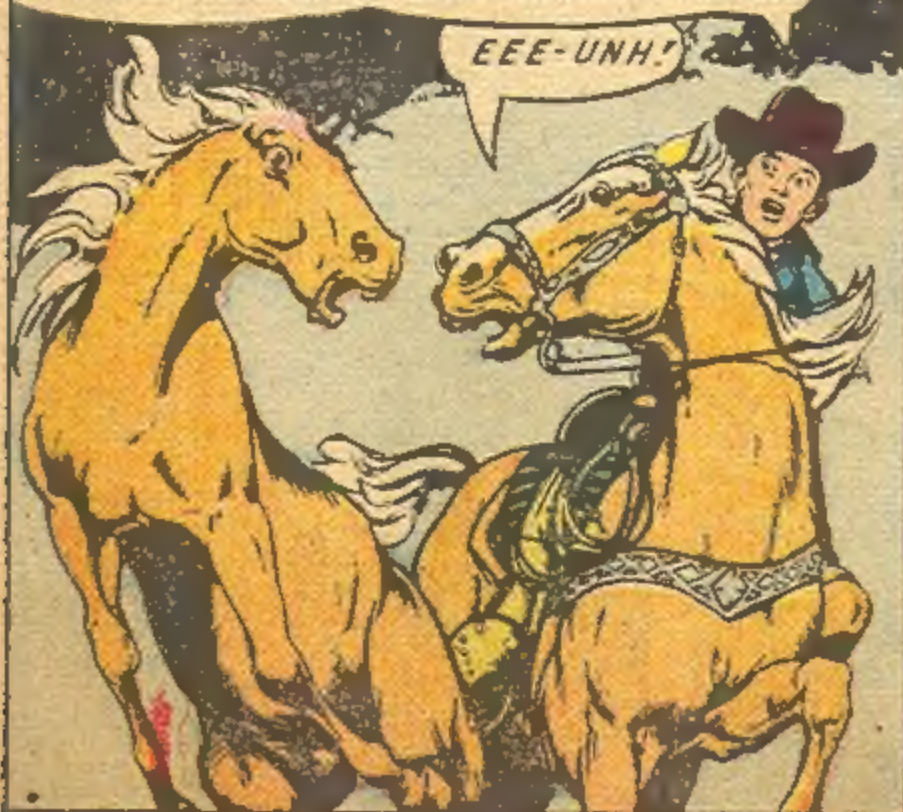
YOU HOLD THE BUNCH, CURLY! ONLY TRIGGER CAN OUTRUN THAT MARE!

DOGGONE! YOU'RE RIGHT!



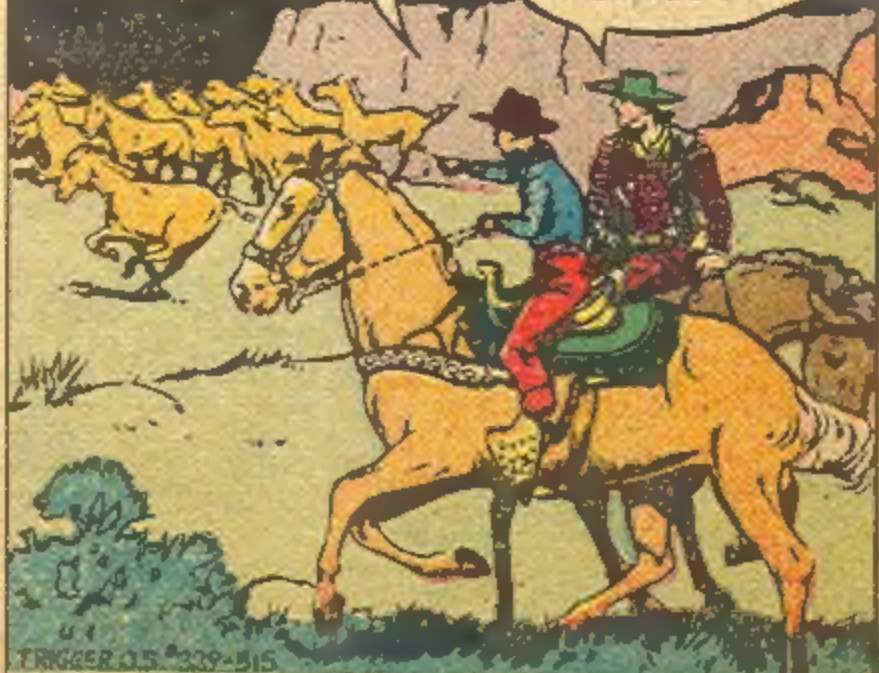
ATTABOY, TRIGGER! TEACH HER A LESSON!

EEE-UHH!



LOOK AT HER, CURLY--- ALL SWEATING! AND TRIGGER HASN'T TURNED A HAIR!

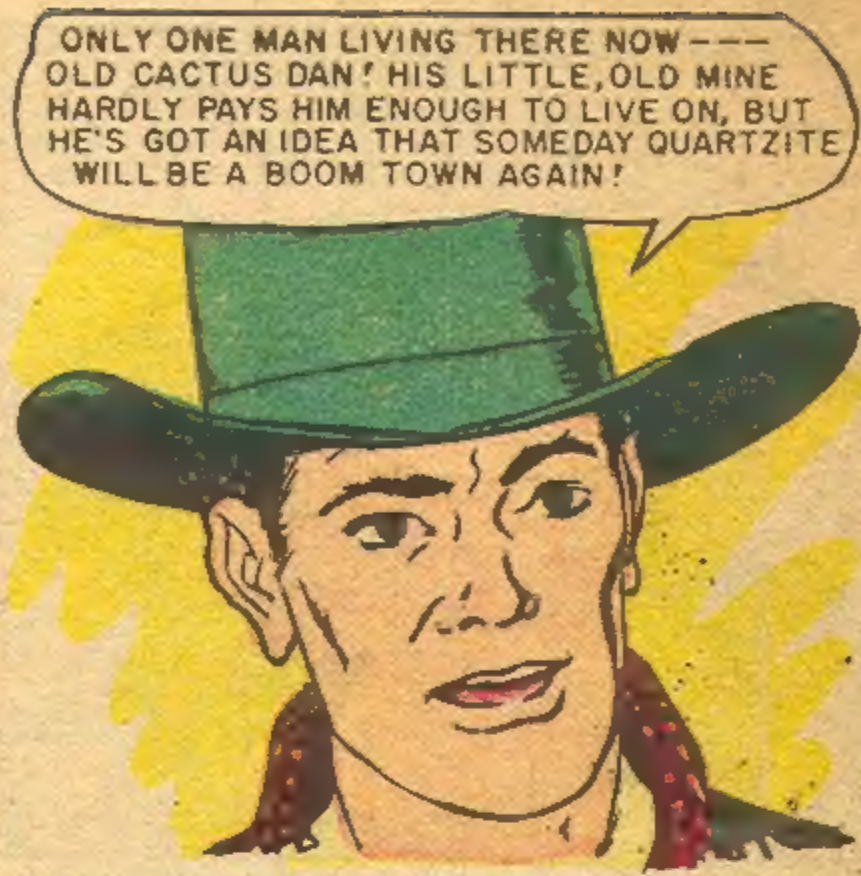
THAT HORSE IS AS GOOD AS SIX RIDERS, PETE--- FOR KEEPING A BUNCH CLOSE-HERDED!





HAVE YOU PICKED OUT THE PLACE WHERE WE'LL CAMP TONIGHT, CURLY?

UH-HUH! THERE'S A CORRAL IN QUARTZITE--- AN OLD GHOST TOWN HALF WAY TO THE MOUNTAINS!



ONLY ONE MAN LIVING THERE NOW --- OLD CACTUS DAN! HIS LITTLE, OLD MINE HARDLY PAYS HIM ENOUGH TO LIVE ON, BUT HE'S GOT AN IDEA THAT SOMEDAY QUARTZITE WILL BE A BOOM TOWN AGAIN!

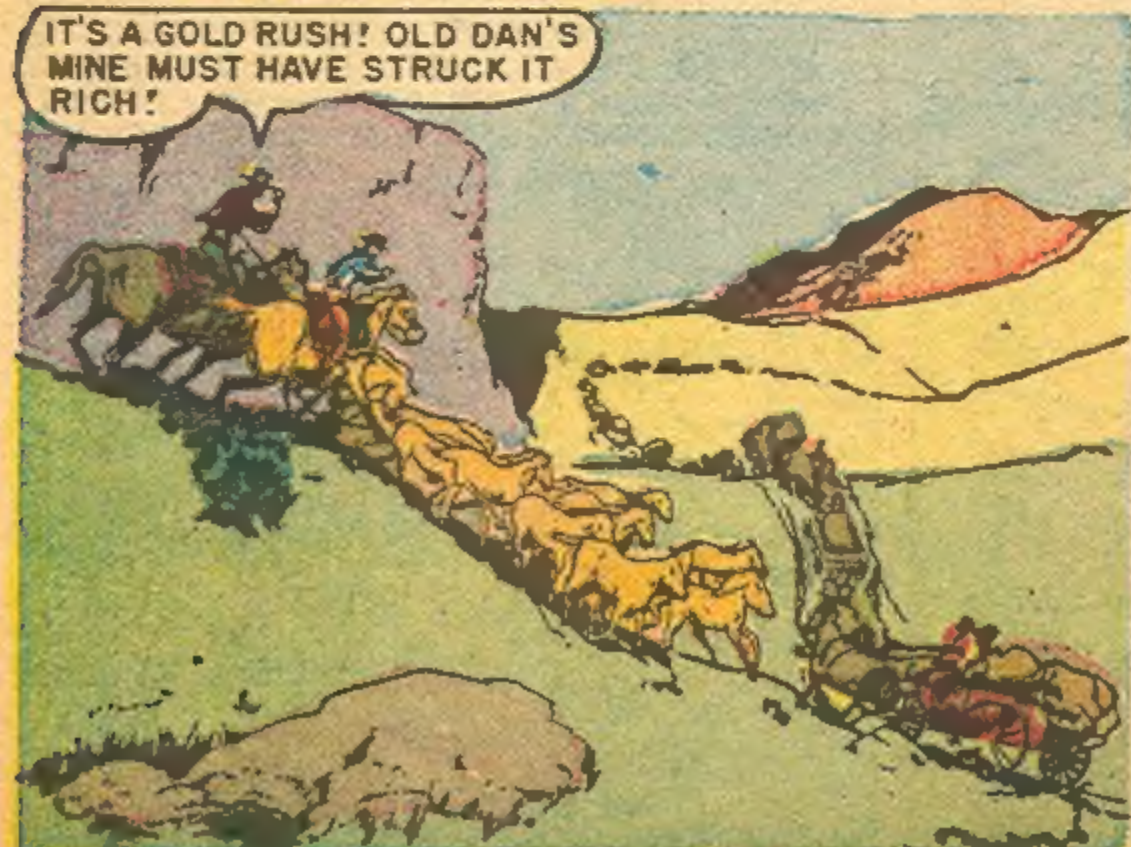


IT LIES JUST OVER THAT RISE--- 'BOUT THREE MILES AWAY!



CURLY! LOOK! THAT ROAD'S FULL OF HORSES AND WAGONS AND PEOPLE! IT CAN'T BE THEY'RE HEADED FOR QUARTZITE, TOO!

WELL--- I'LL BE HAWG-TIED! THEY ARE, THOUGH!



IT'S A GOLD RUSH! OLD DAN'S MINE MUST HAVE STRUCK IT RICH!

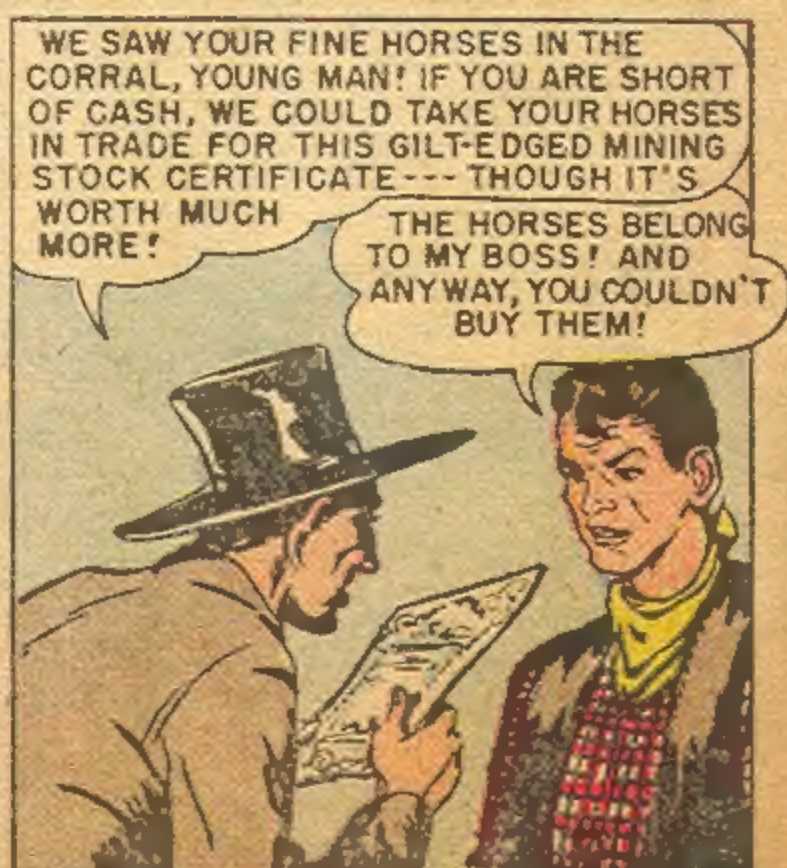
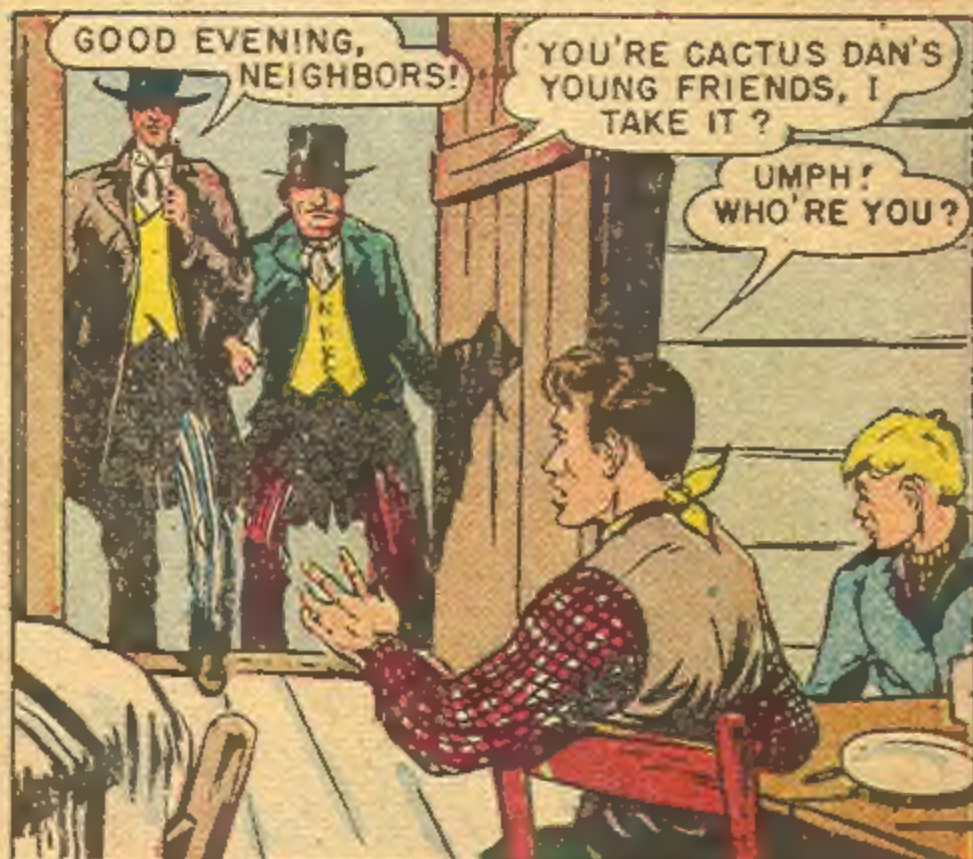
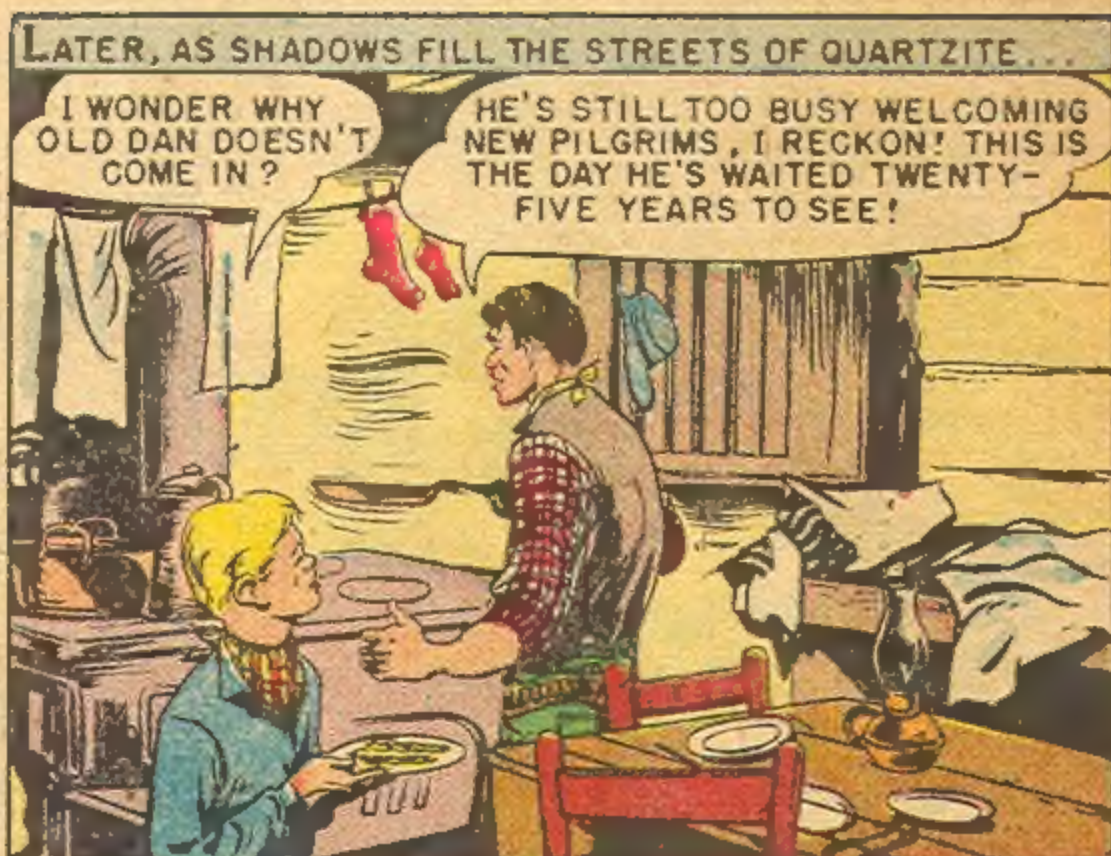
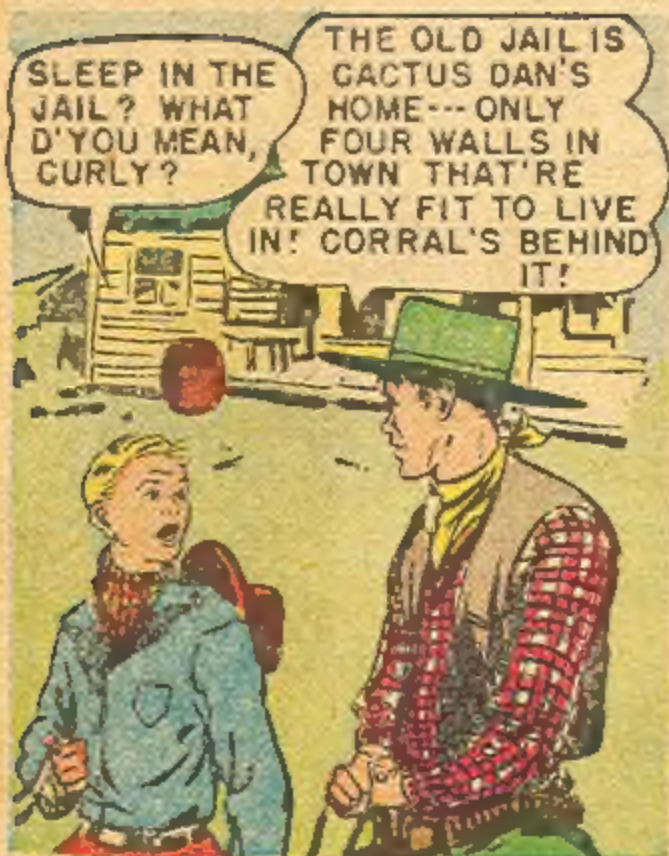


HI, NEIGHBORS! WHAT'S MADE OLD QUARTZITE BOOM AGAIN?

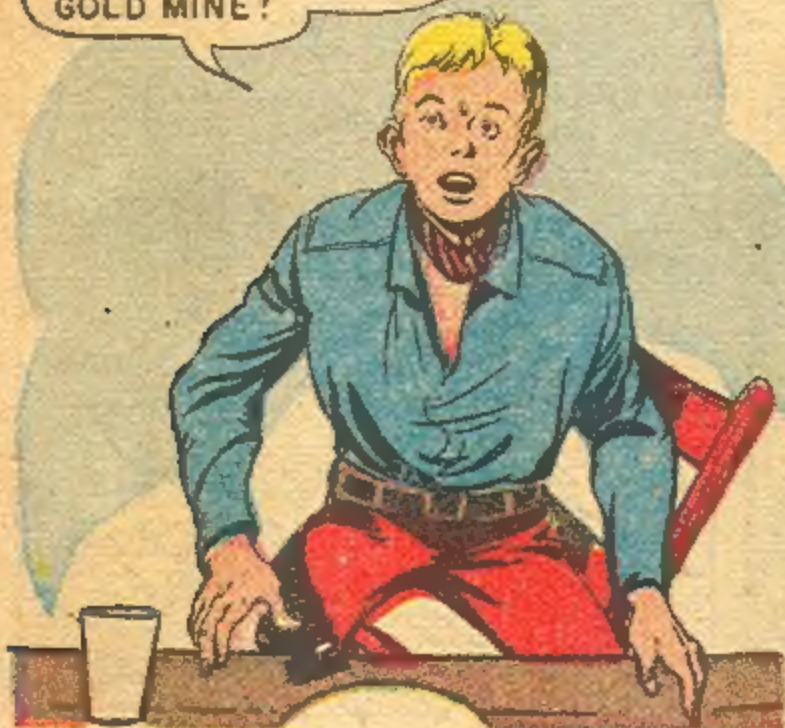
GOLD, O' COURSE--- SOME RICH, NEW VEINS!

THEY SAY YOU CAN PICK THE GOLD OUT WITH YOUR FINGERS!





I'LL SAY YOU COULDN'T!
TRIGGER ALONE IS WORTH
MORE THAN ANY OLD
GOLD MINE!



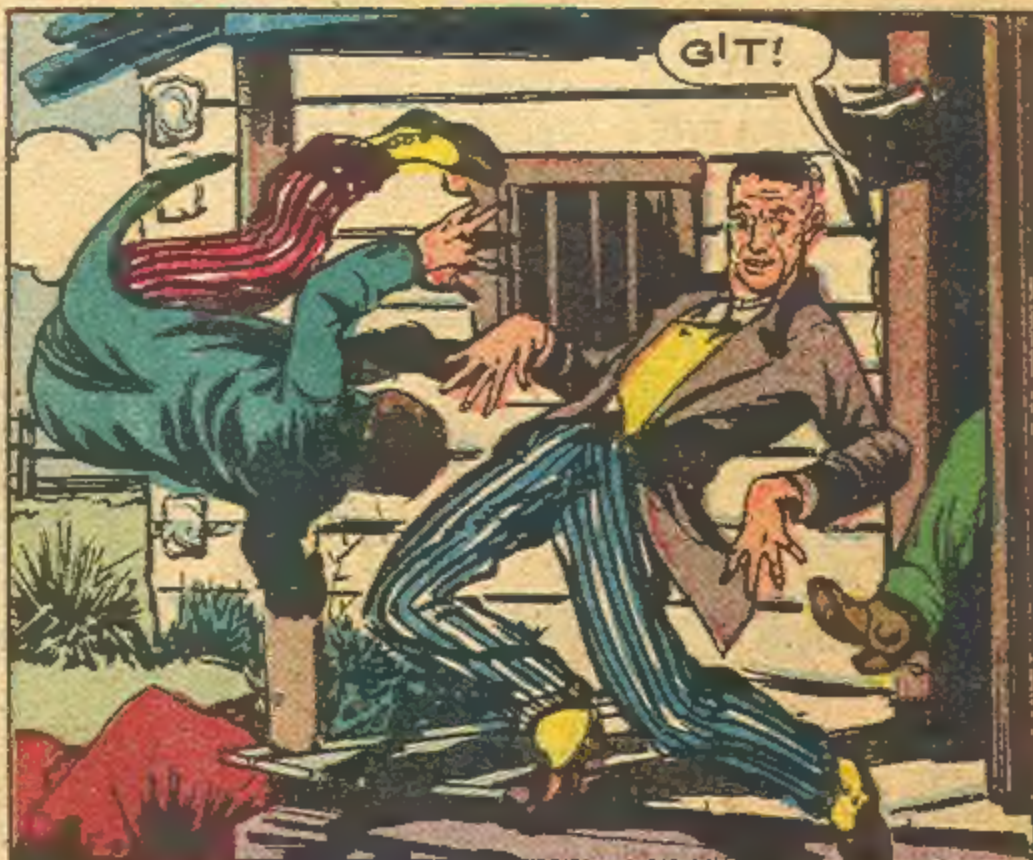
YOU COULD CASH THIS CERTIFICATE FOR ENOUGH
MONEY TO SATISFY YOUR BOSS, AND STILL KEEP
A SMALL FORTUNE FOR YOURSELVES, FRIENDS!
JUST MAKE A SIMPLE BILL OF SALE FOR THE
HORSES!



JUST MAKE A SIMPLE
PASEAR OUT OF THAT
DOOR, YOU DRESSED-
UP SKUNKS--- AND I
HOPE YOU LAND ON
YOUR EARS!

YOU'LL
REGRET
THIS!

LET GO MY
COLLAR---



---TRYING TO
MAKE CROOKS
OF US! PAH!

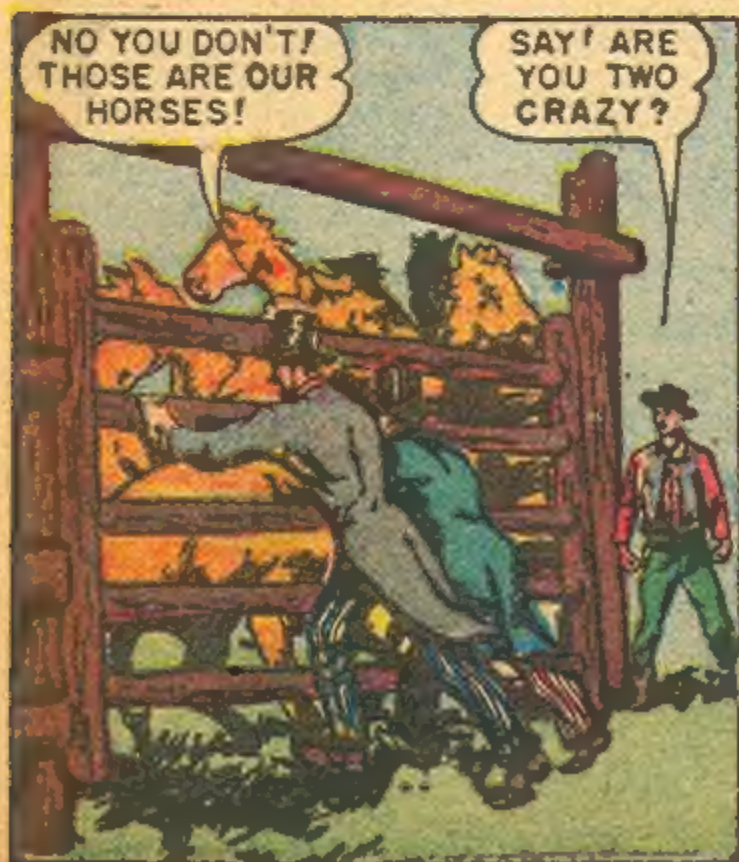
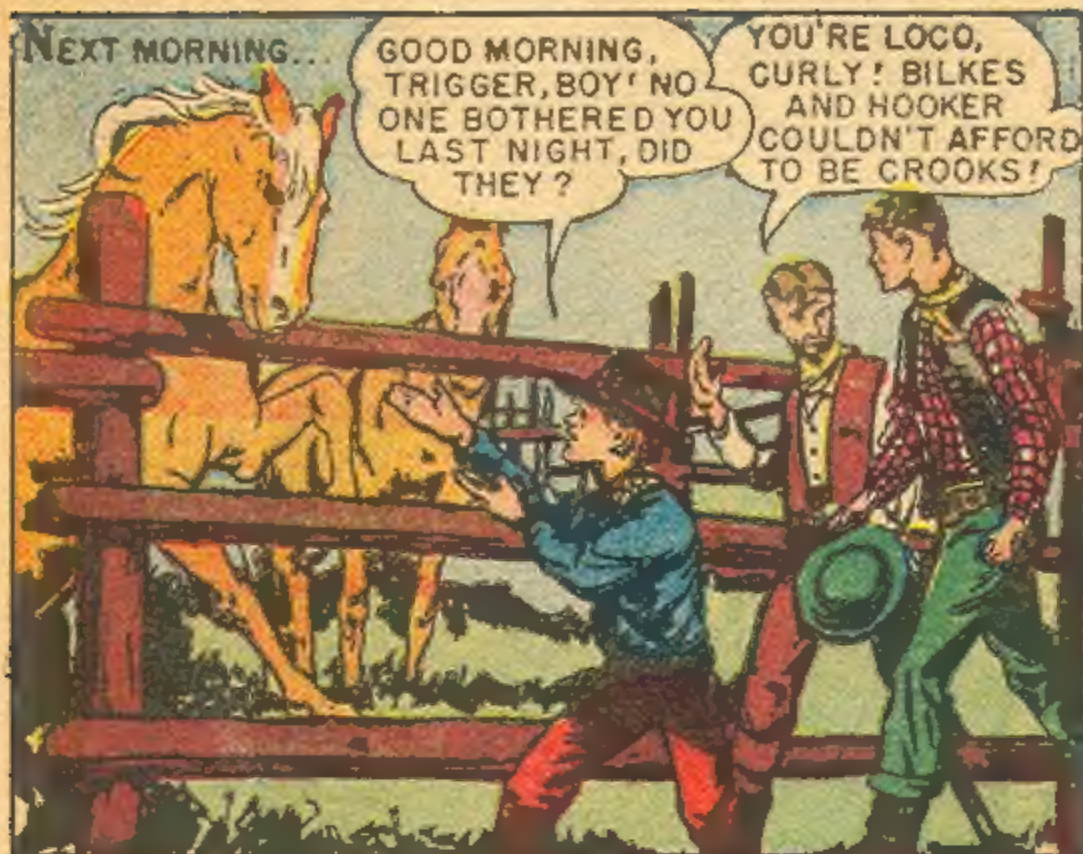
CURLY, PERHAPS WE'D
BETTER KEEP A WATCH
ON TRIGGER AND THE
MARES TONIGHT! THOSE
TWO MIGHT TRY TO
STEAL THEM!

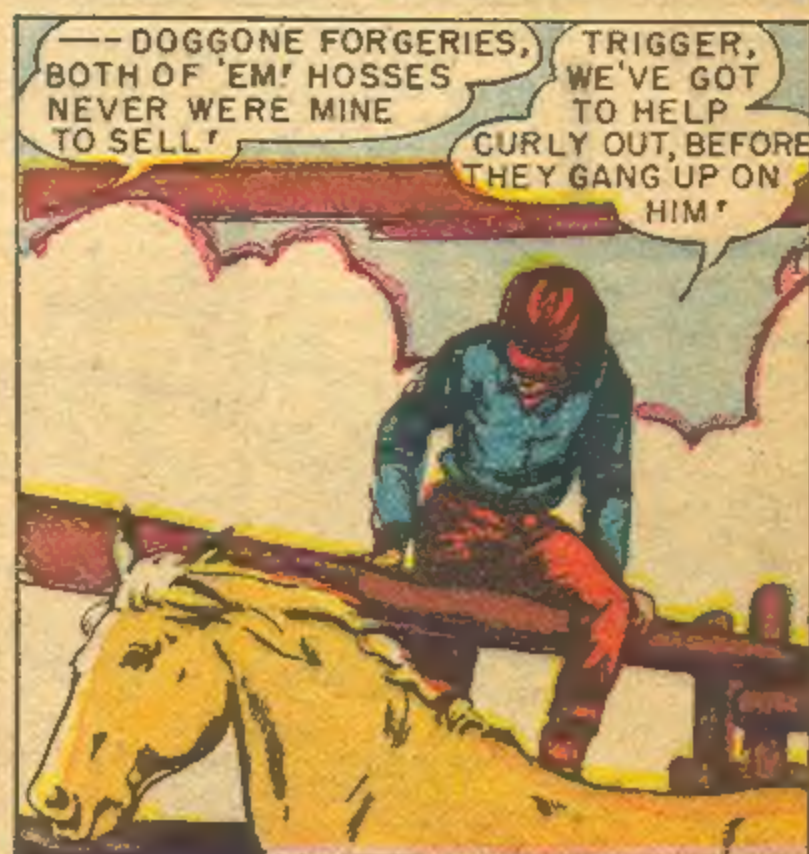


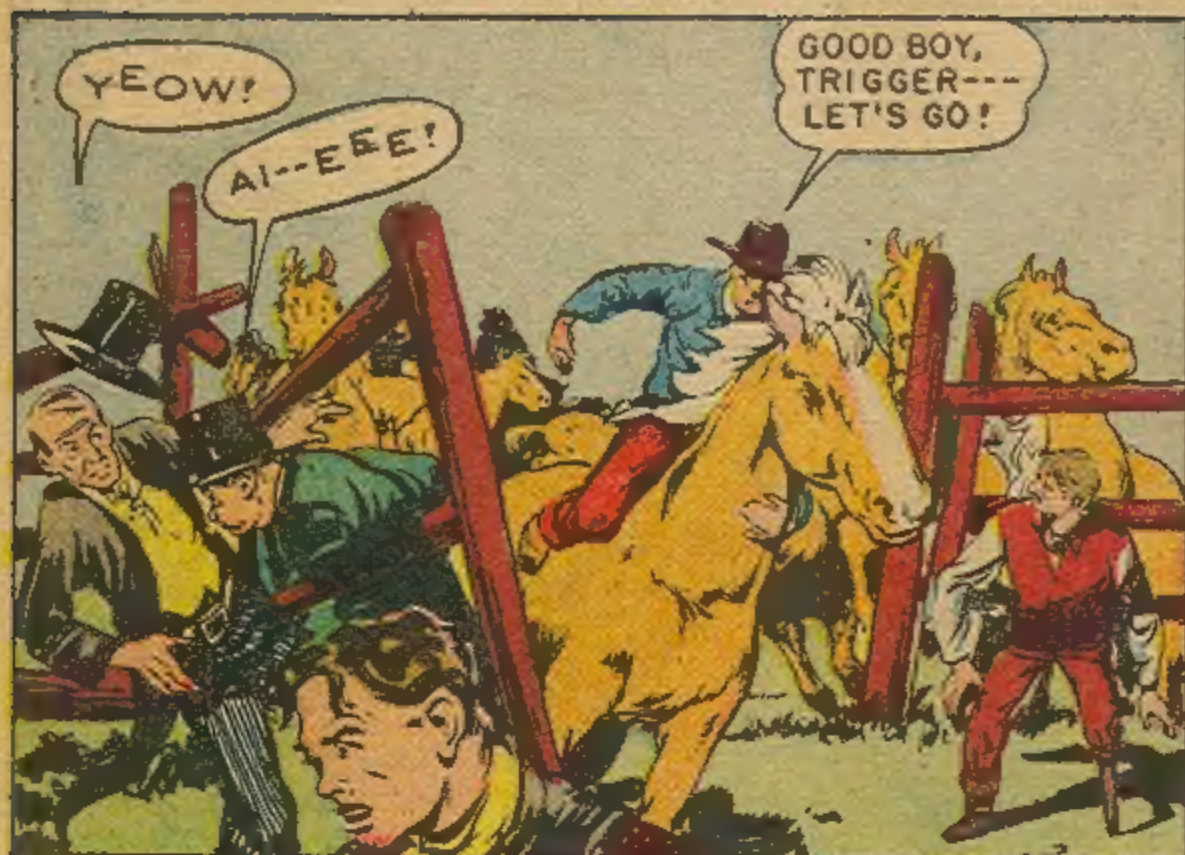
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT,
PETE! I'LL SPREAD MY
BEDROLL ON THE TABLE
CLOSE TO THIS WINDOW,
WHERE I CAN SEE
THE CORRAL!

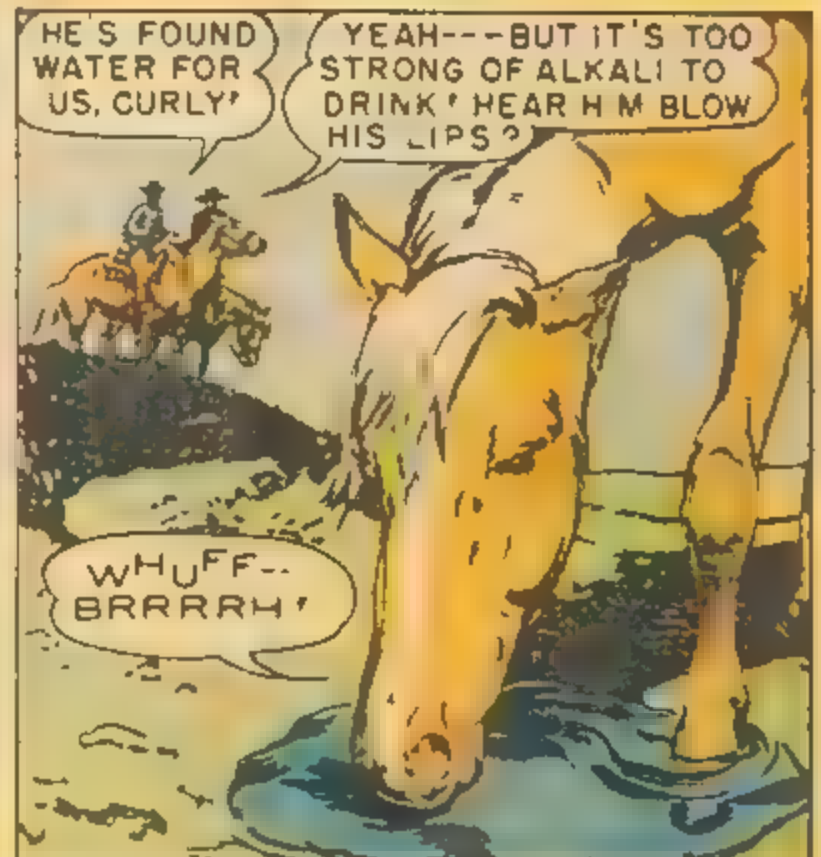
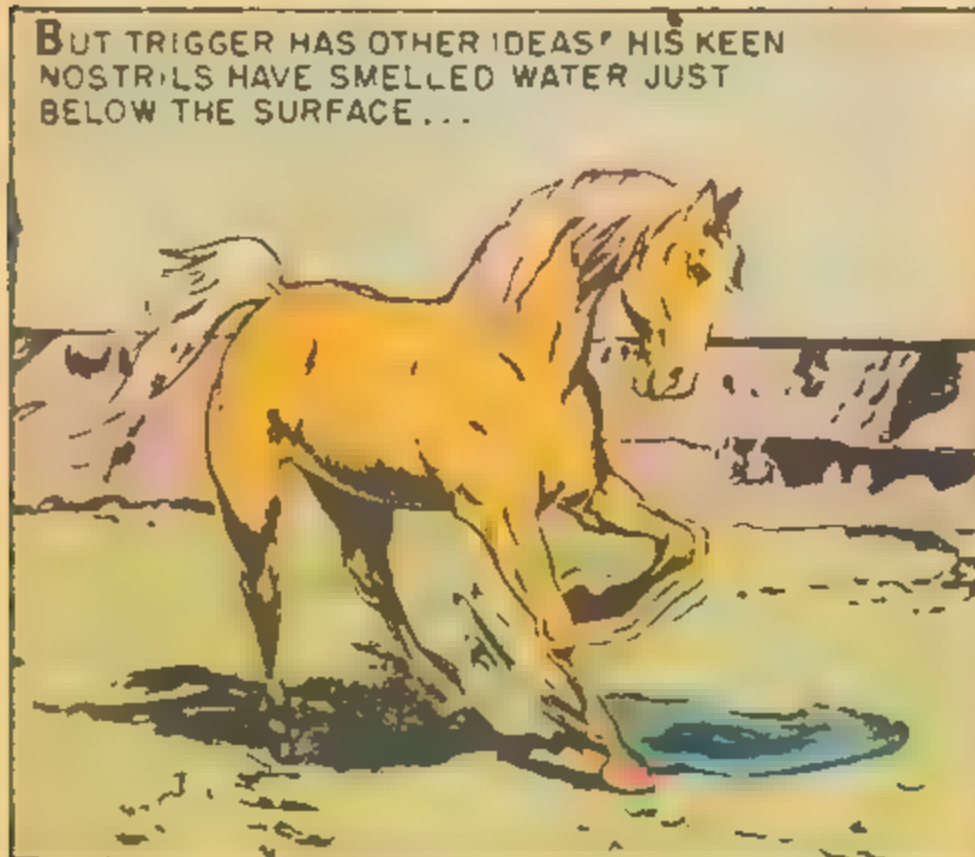
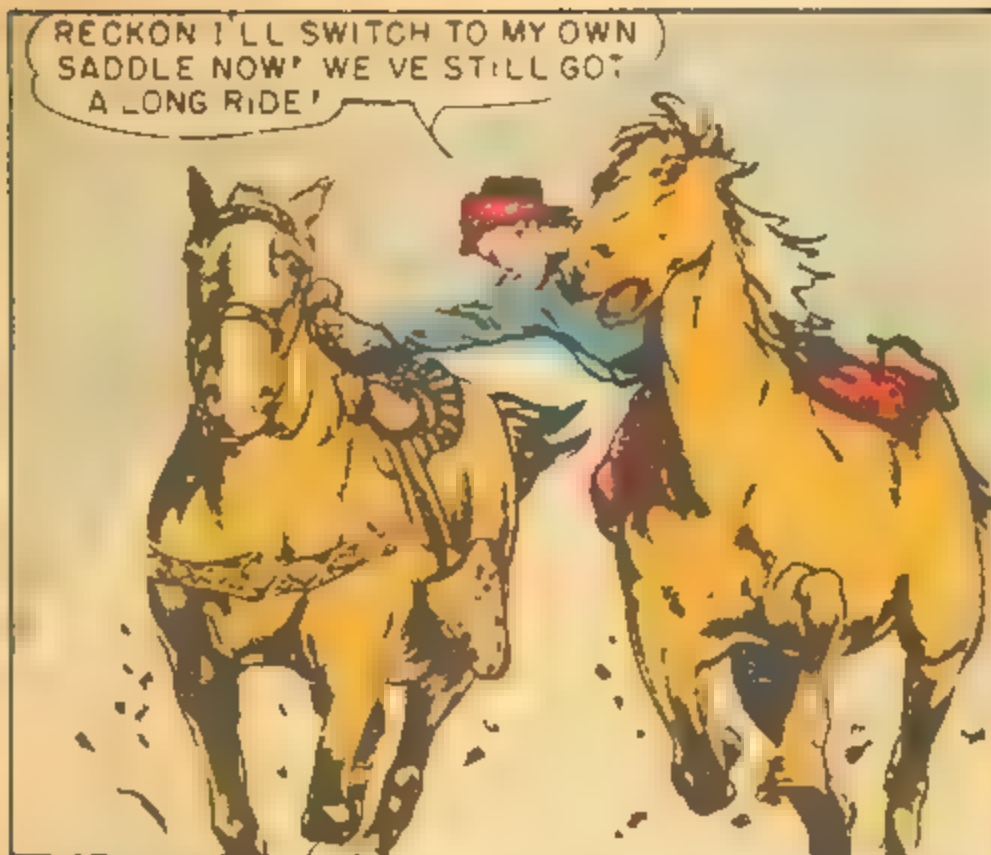
THAT'S GOOD,
CURLY! TRIGGER
WOULD GIVE US
WARNING, IF ANY
STRANGERS CAME
FOOLING AROUND!

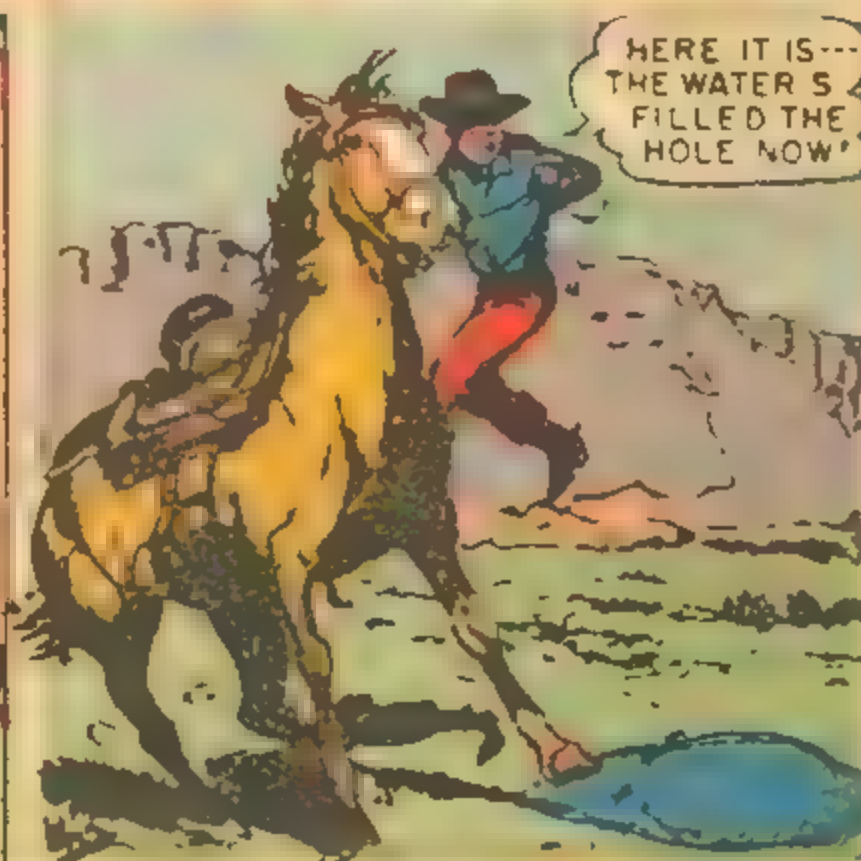


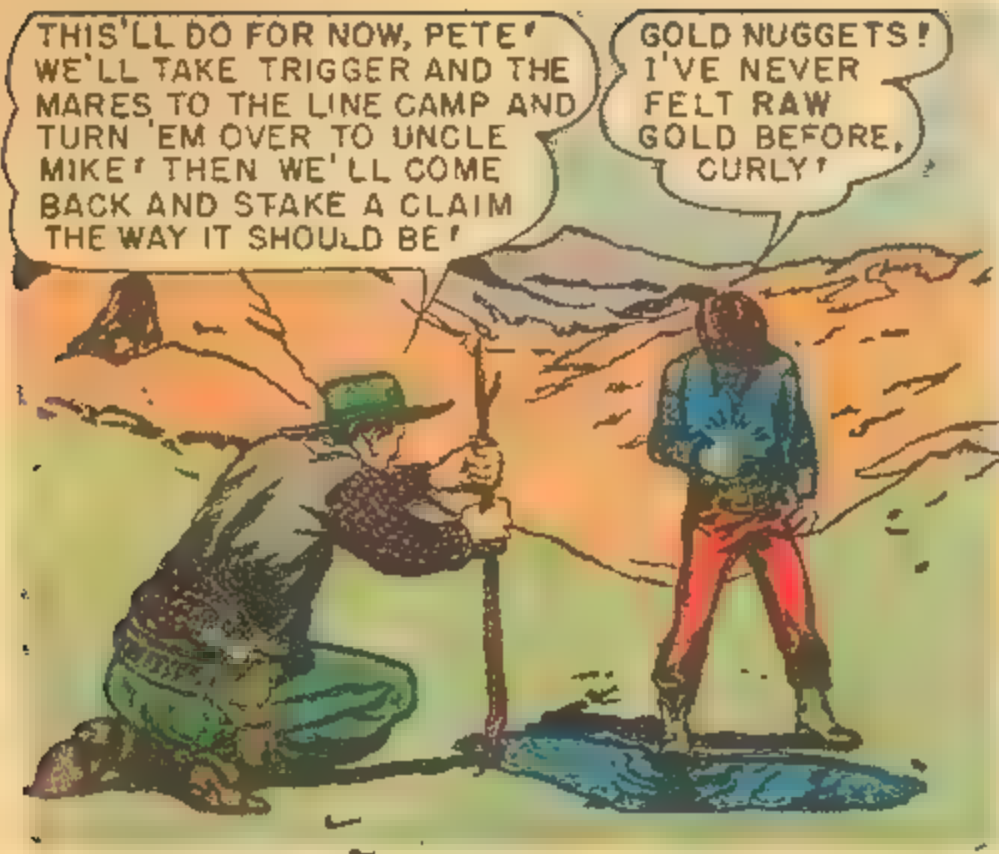






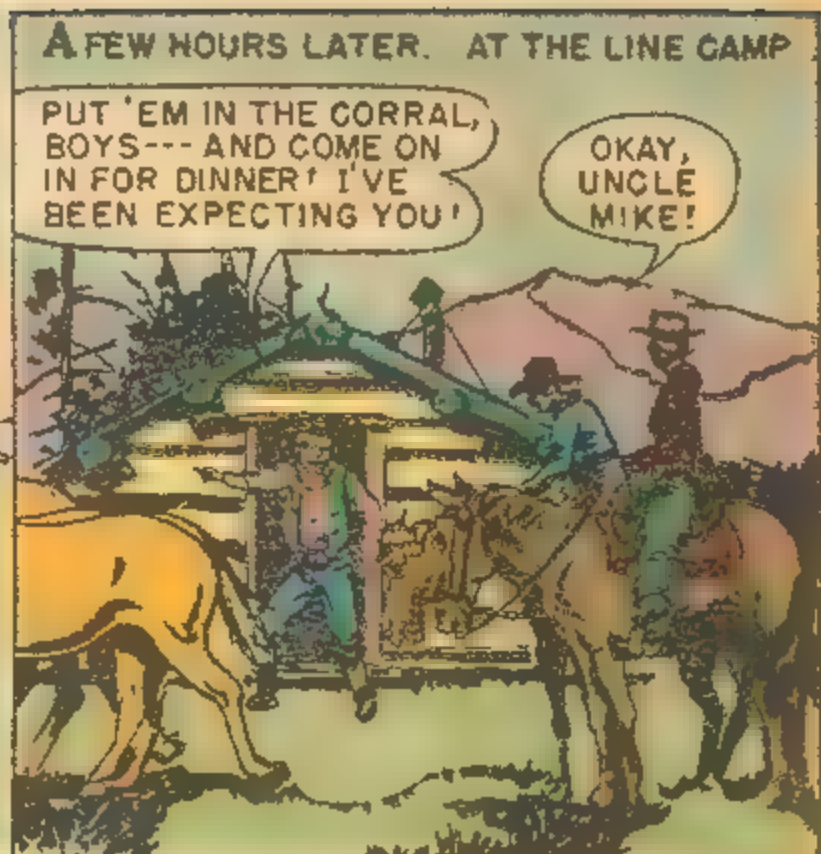






THIS'LL DO FOR NOW, PETE! WE'LL TAKE TRIGGER AND THE MARES TO THE LINE CAMP AND TURN 'EM OVER TO UNCLE MIKE! THEN WE'LL COME BACK AND STAKE A CLAIM THE WAY IT SHOULD BE!

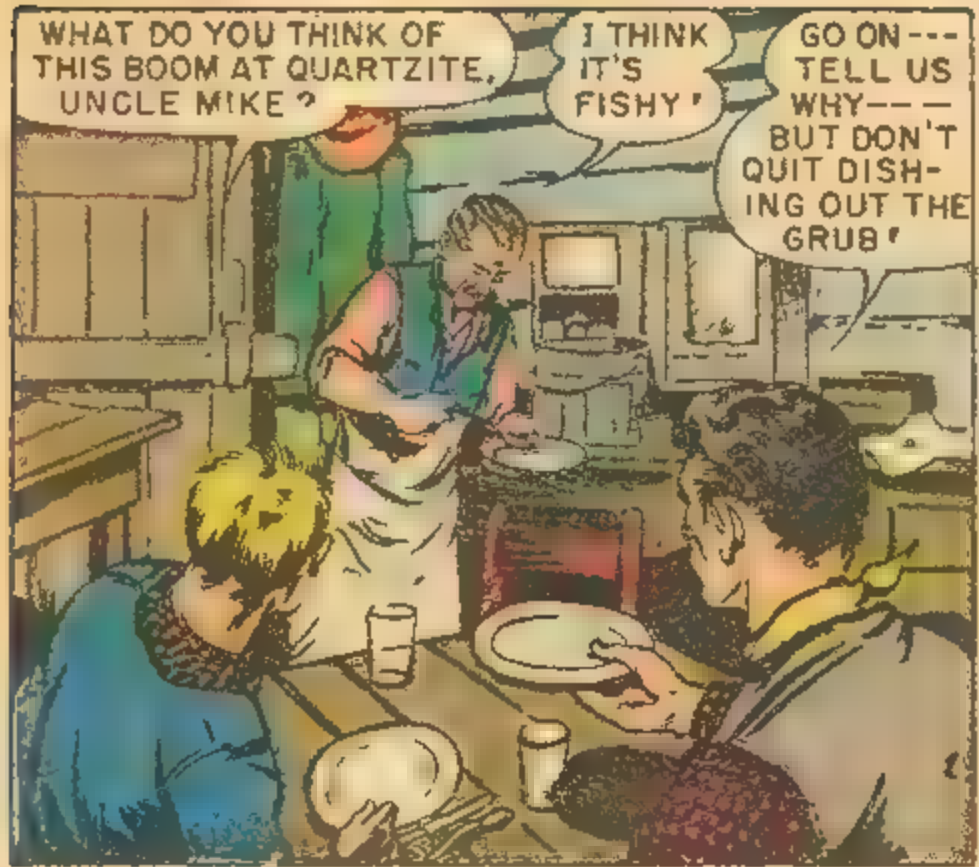
GOLD NUGGETS! I'VE NEVER FELT RAW GOLD BEFORE, CURLY!



A FEW HOURS LATER. AT THE LINE CAMP

PUT 'EM IN THE CORRAL, BOYS--- AND COME ON IN FOR DINNER! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!

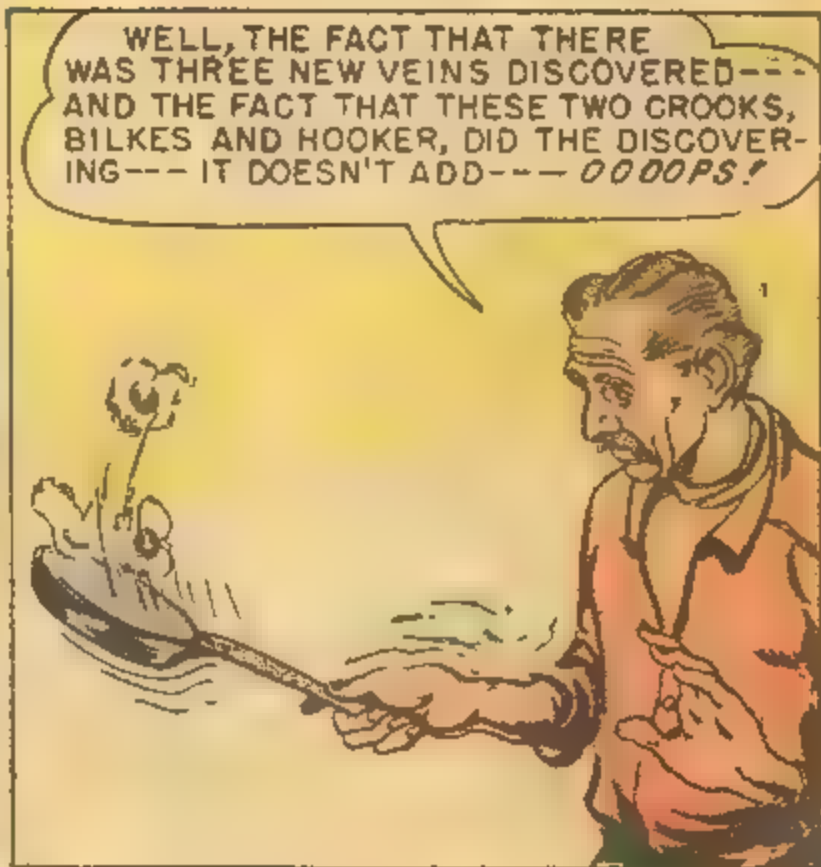
OKAY, UNCLE MIKE!



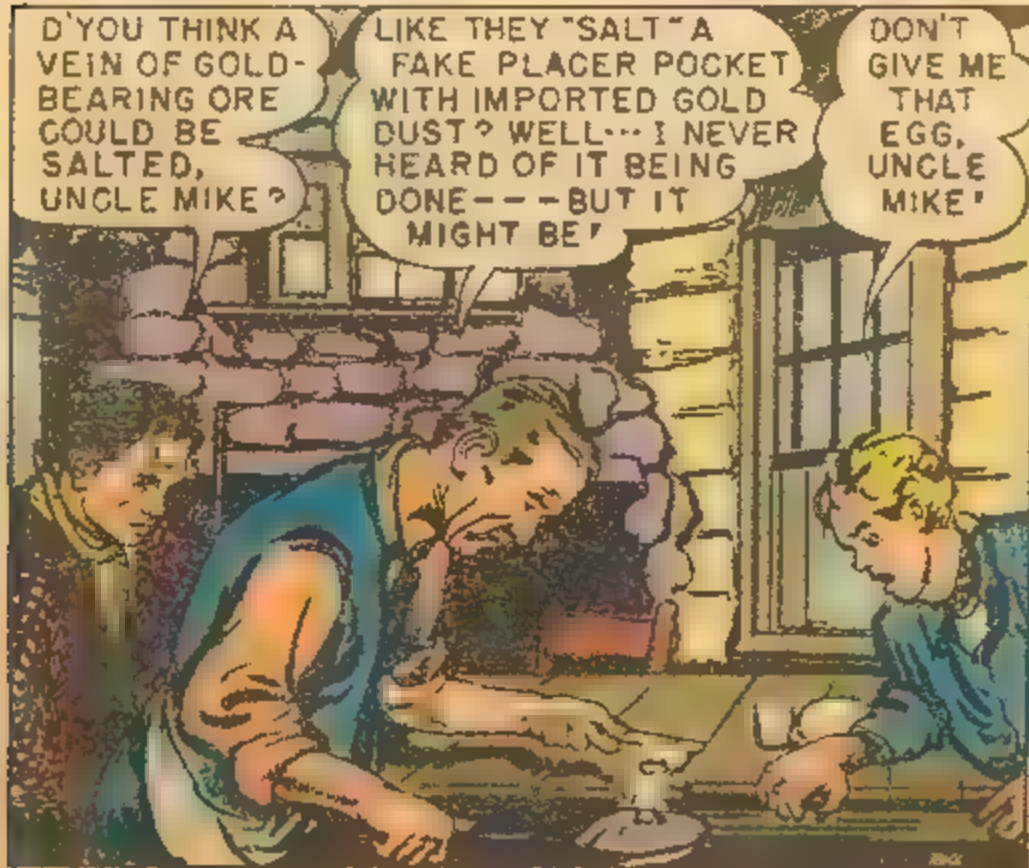
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS BOOM AT QUARTZITE, UNCLE MIKE?

I THINK IT'S FISHY!

GO ON--- TELL US WHY--- BUT DON'T QUIT DISHING OUT THE GRUB!



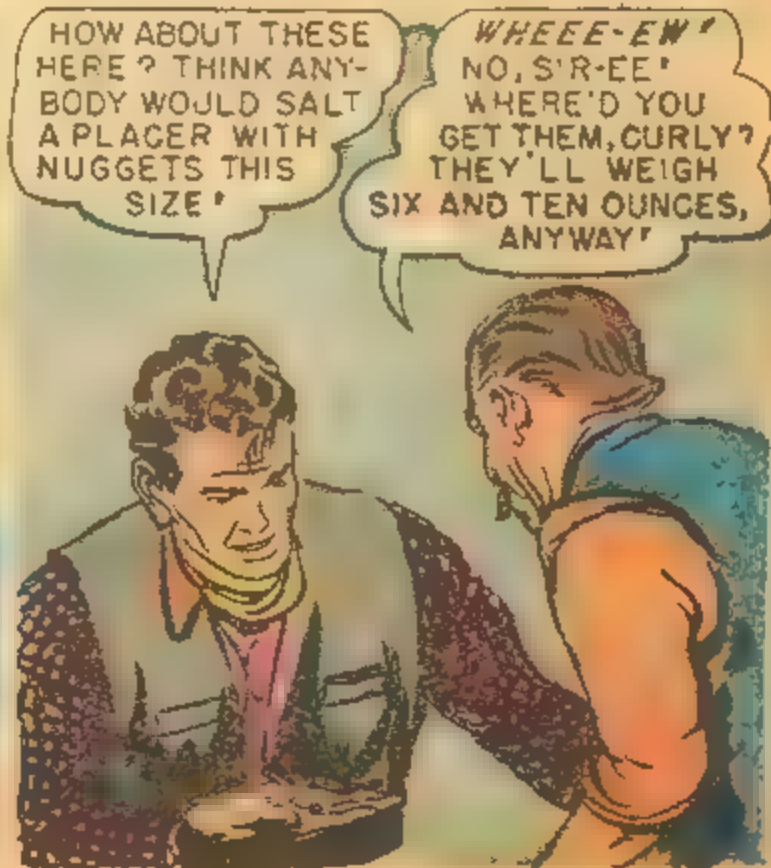
WELL, THE FACT THAT THERE WAS THREE NEW VEINS DISCOVERED--- AND THE FACT THAT THESE TWO CROOKS, BILKES AND HOOKER, DID THE DISCOVERING--- IT DOESN'T ADD--- OOOOPS!



D'YOU THINK A VEIN OF GOLD-BEARING ORE COULD BE SALTED, UNCLE MIKE?

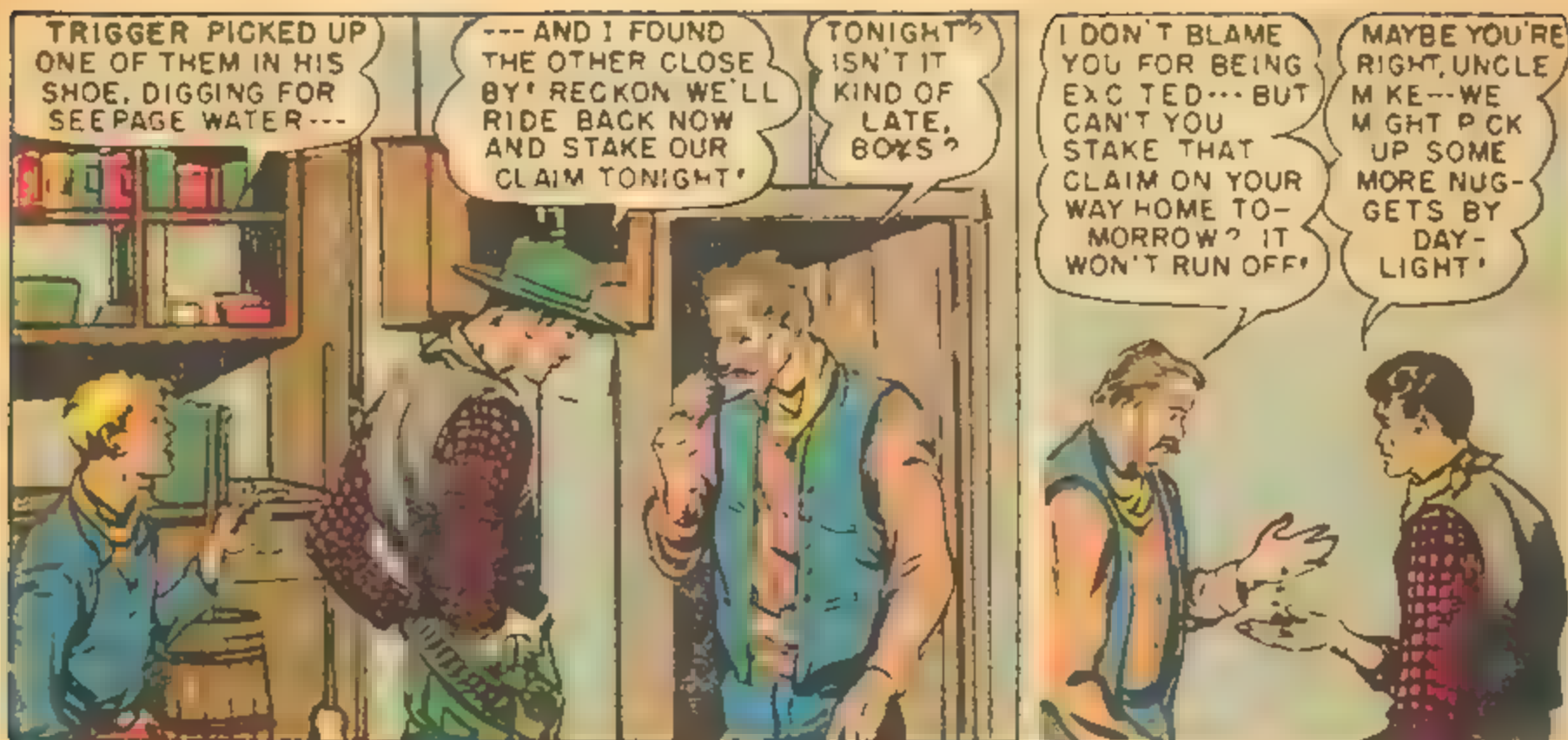
LIKE THEY "SALT" A FAKE PLACER POCKET WITH IMPORTED GOLD DUST? WELL--- I NEVER HEARD OF IT BEING DONE--- BUT IT MIGHT BE!

DON'T GIVE ME THAT EGG, UNCLE MIKE!



HOW ABOUT THESE HERE? THINK ANYBODY WOULD SALT A PLACER WITH NUGGETS THIS SIZE?

WHEEE-EW! NO, S'R-EE! WHERE'D YOU GET THEM, CURLY? THEY'LL WEIGH SIX AND TEN OUNCES, ANYWAY!



WE'VE BEEN HOOKED FOR SUCKERS! I DON'T SEE HOW THEY DID IT BUT THE CROOKS WHO SOLD IT TO US MUST HAVE PACKED GOOD ORE INTO A WORTHLESS VEIN!

IF THEY DID, THEN THEY'VE SWINOLED OTHER FOLKS THE SAME WAY!



LET'S CALL ON BLACK JACK BURGESS--- HE BOUGHT ONE OF THE "NEW VEIN" MINES!

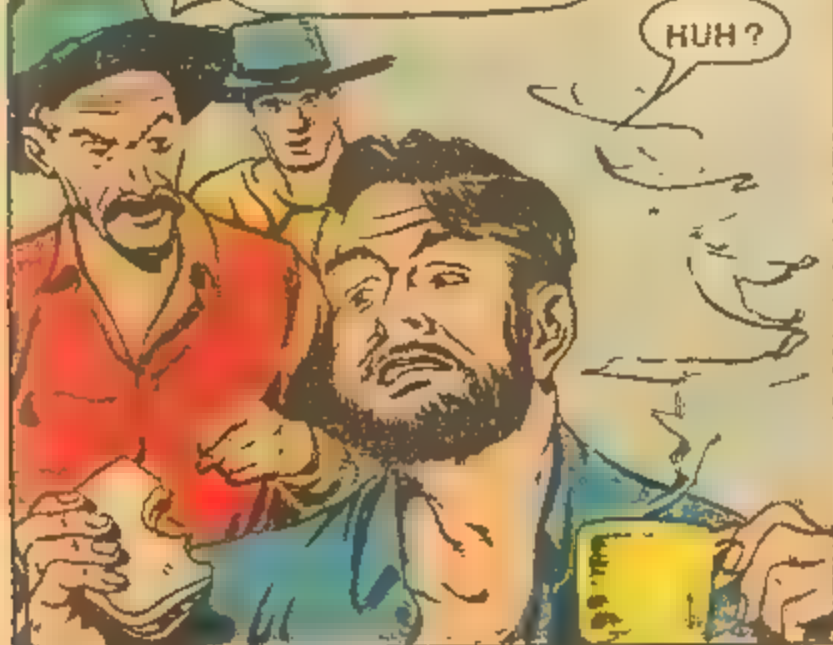
YEAH--- WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE!



WHEN TOM AND ED FINALLY LOCATE THEIR FRIEND AT A RESTAURANT

HELLO, BLACK JACK! HATE TO SPOIL YOUR SUPPER BUT WE'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS!

HUH?



NO, ED--- I HAVEN'T STARTED WORK ON MY VEIN OF HIGH-GRADE YET--- AND NEITHER HAS BILL HOLLING ON HIS!

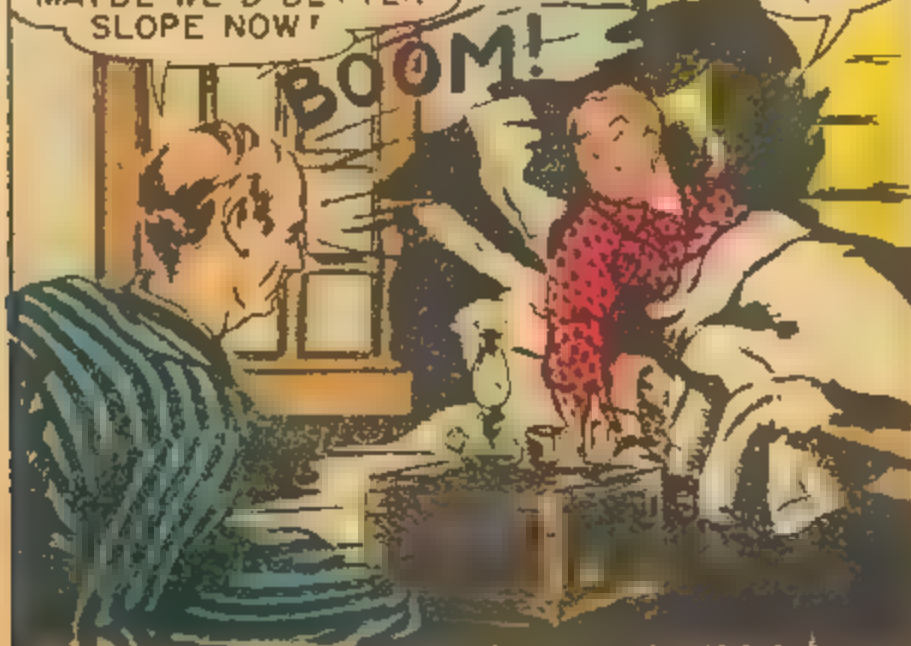
WE'D BETTER LOOK BILL UP, TOO!



ABOUT MIDNIGHT, BILKES GROWS NERVOUS, AND ROUSES HIS PARTNER.

HOOKE! THAT'S THE THIRD BLAST I'VE HEARD SINCE DARK! MAYBE WE'D BETTER SLOPE NOW!

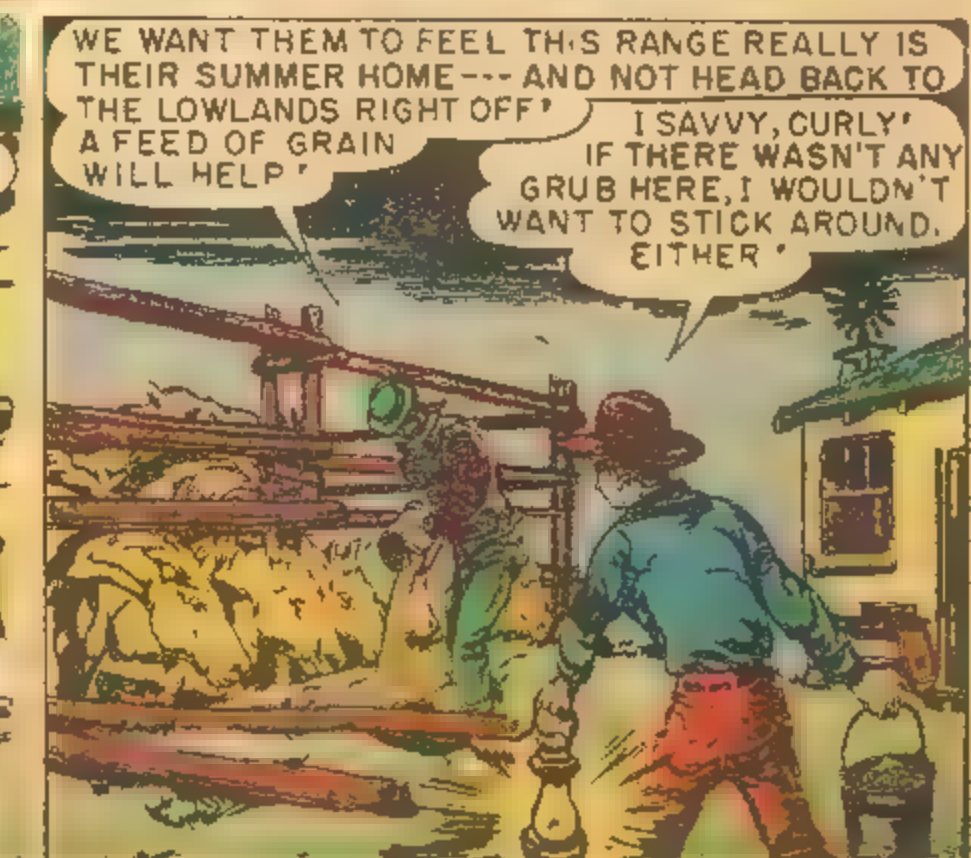
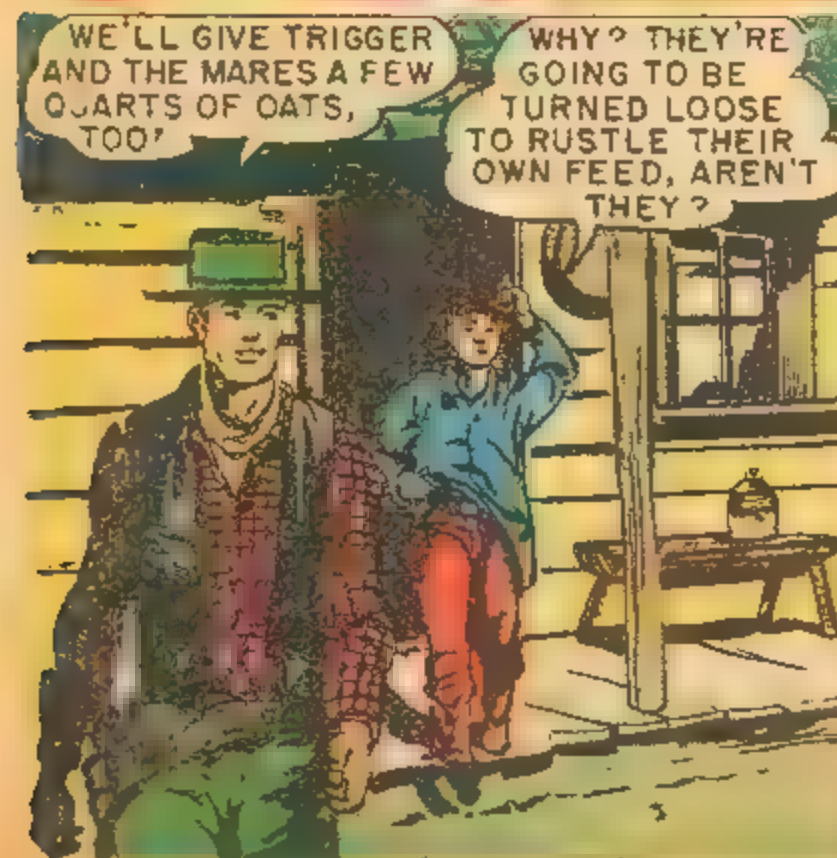
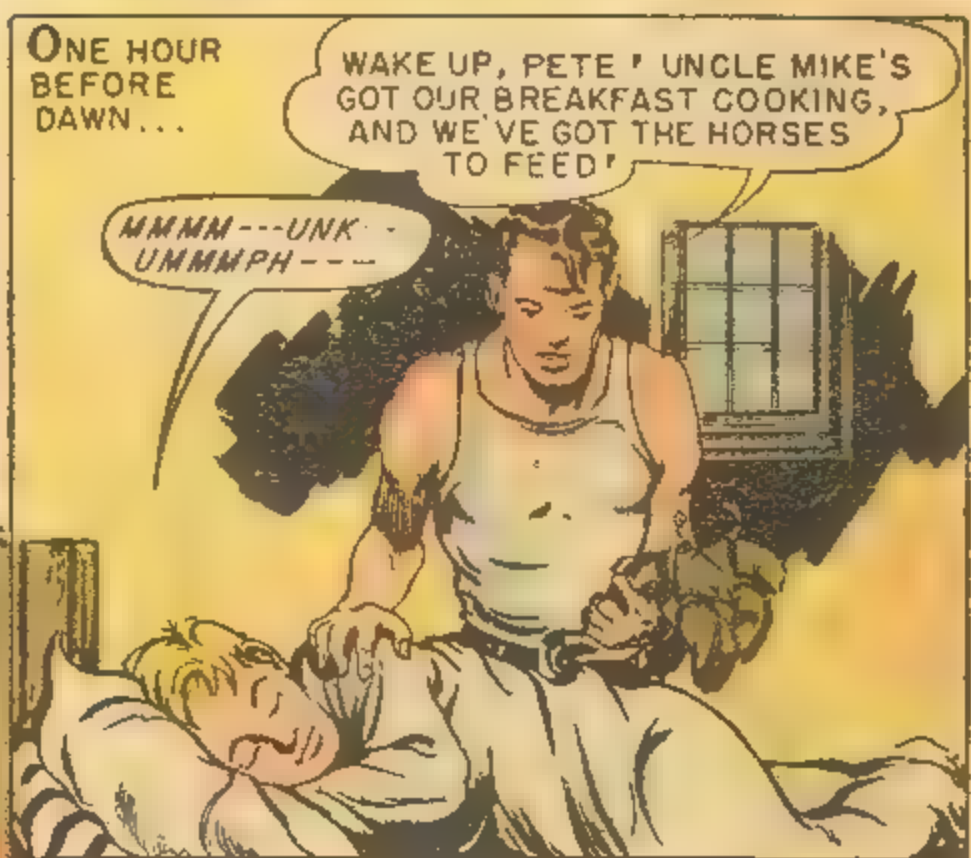
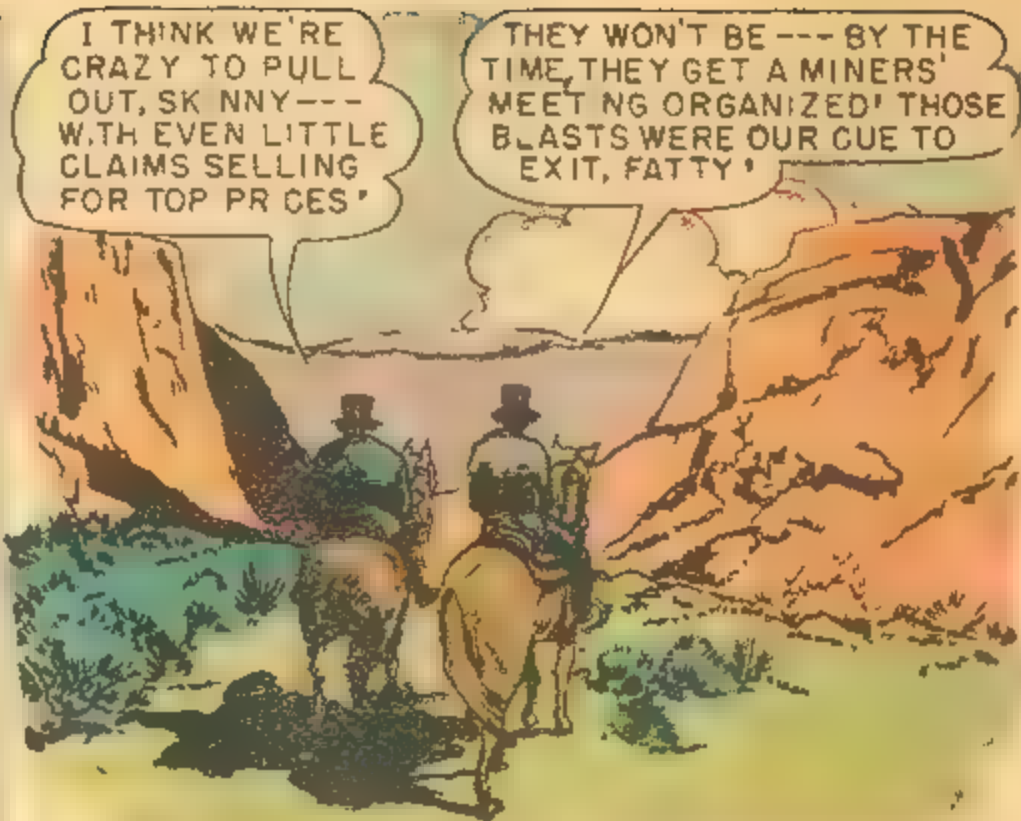
UMPH! WHA' TIME'S IT?

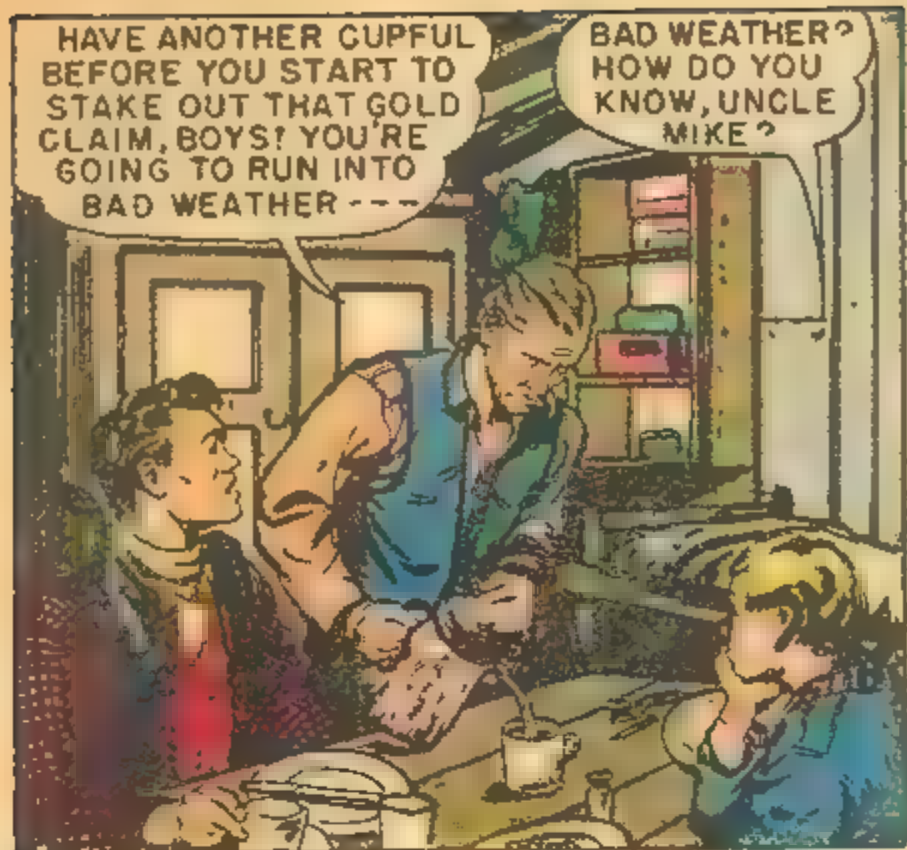


AWWW-UGH! THEY WON'T START LOOKING FOR US BEFORE DAYLIGHT!

HUSTLE, FATTY! ONCE THOSE GENTS FIND OUT WE HAVE PACKED A FEW INCHES OF HIGH-GRADE ORE INTO THE VEINS THEY PAID ALL THIS MONEY FOR, THEY'LL BE LOOKIN' FOR BLOOD!

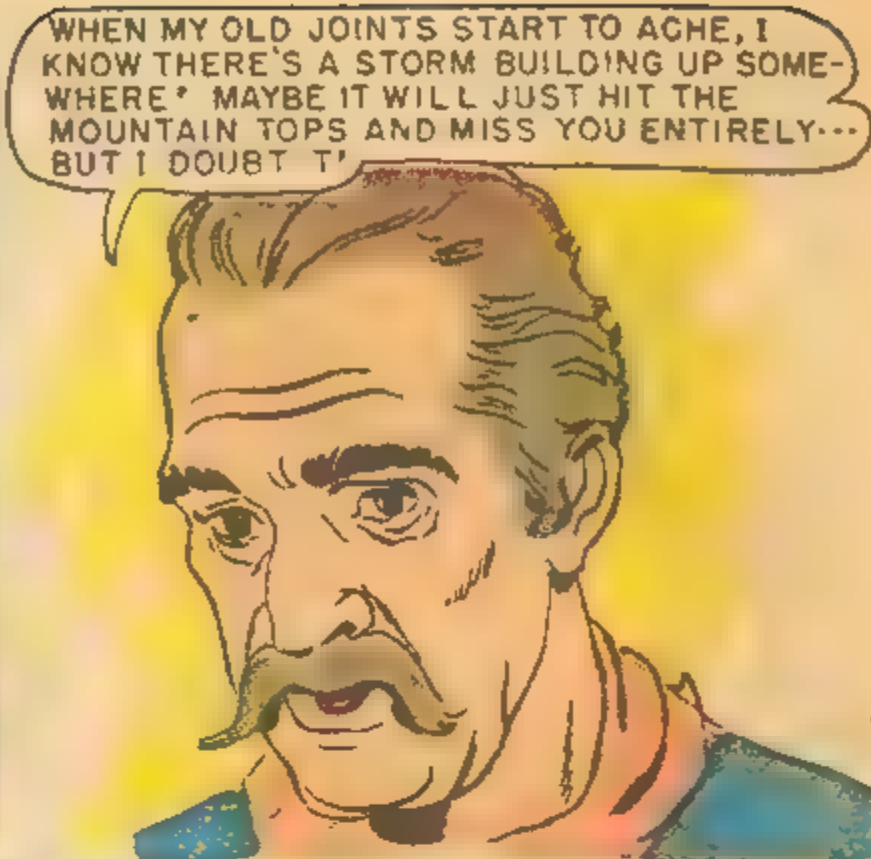




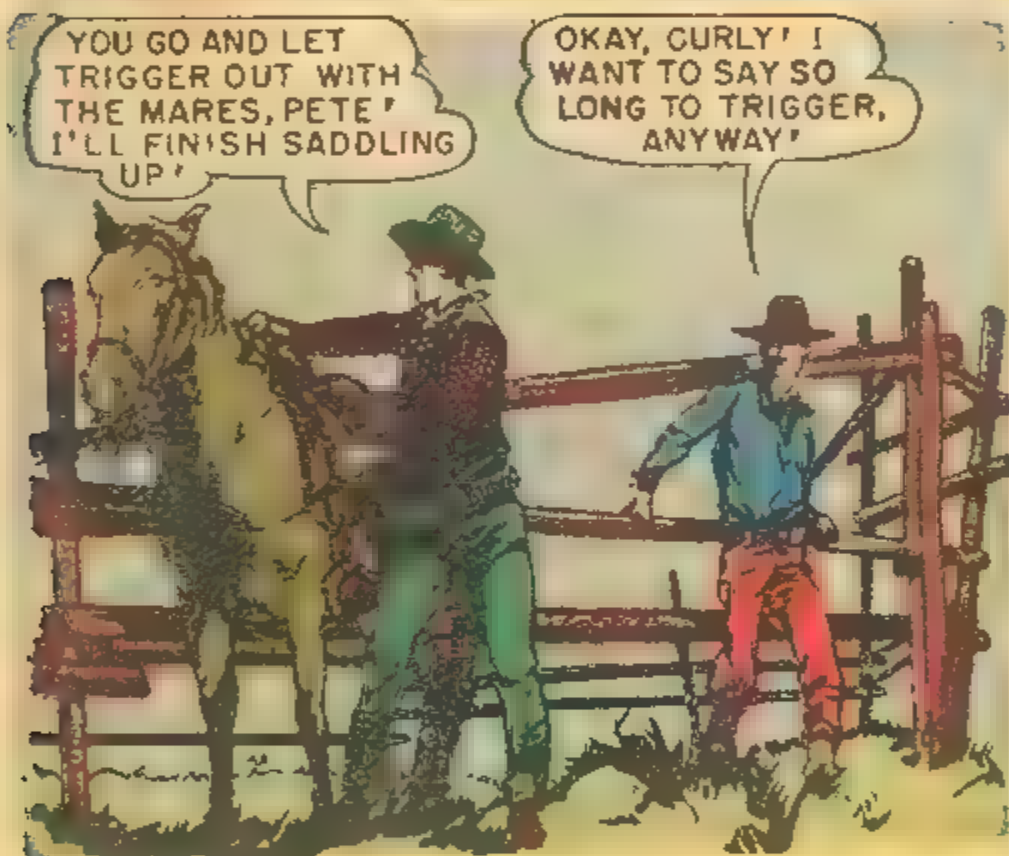


HAVE ANOTHER CUPFUL BEFORE YOU START TO STAKE OUT THAT GOLD CLAIM, BOYS! YOU'RE GOING TO RUN INTO BAD WEATHER ---

BAD WEATHER? HOW DO YOU KNOW, UNCLE MIKE?



WHEN MY OLD JOINTS START TO ACHE, I KNOW THERE'S A STORM BUILDING UP SOMEWHERE. MAYBE IT WILL JUST HIT THE MOUNTAIN TOPS AND MISS YOU ENTIRELY... BUT I DOUBT IT.



YOU GO AND LET TRIGGER OUT WITH THE MARES, PETE. I'LL FINISH SADDLING UP.

OKAY, CURLY! I WANT TO SAY SO LONG TO TRIGGER, ANYWAY.



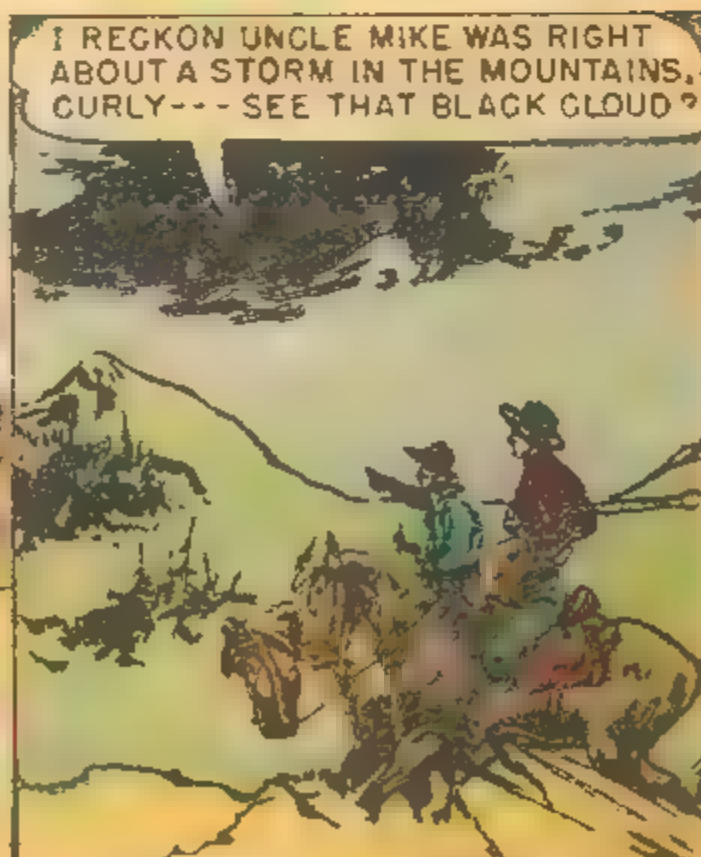
I WON'T BE SEEING YOU FOR A FEW WEEKS, TRIGGER, BOY! GOING TO MISS YOU, PLENTY. - BUT YOU'LL HAVE YOUR JOB, GUARDING YOUR BROOD OF MARES!

WHUH-HUH HO HO HO!



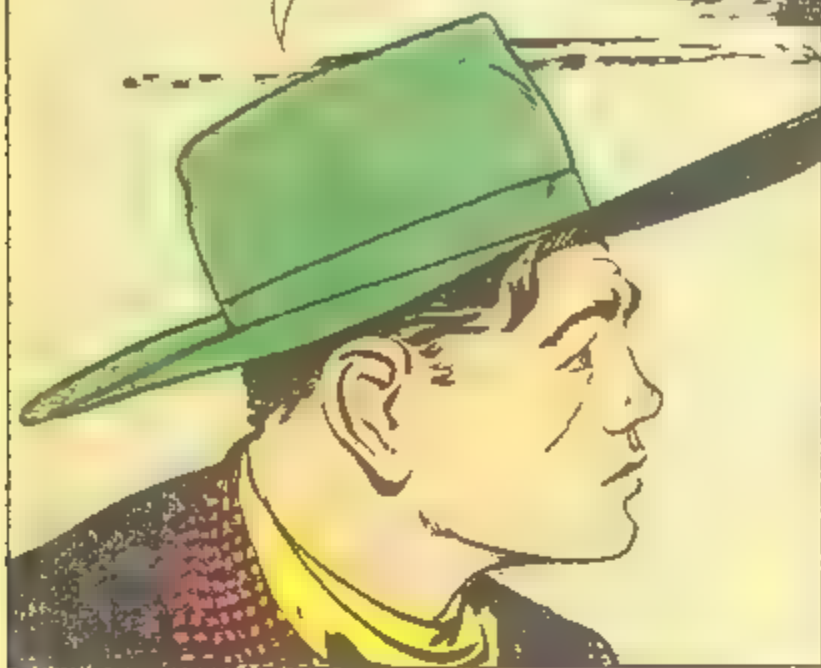
WHEE-HEE-HEE HEE

SO LONG--- AND GOOD LUCK, TRIGGER!

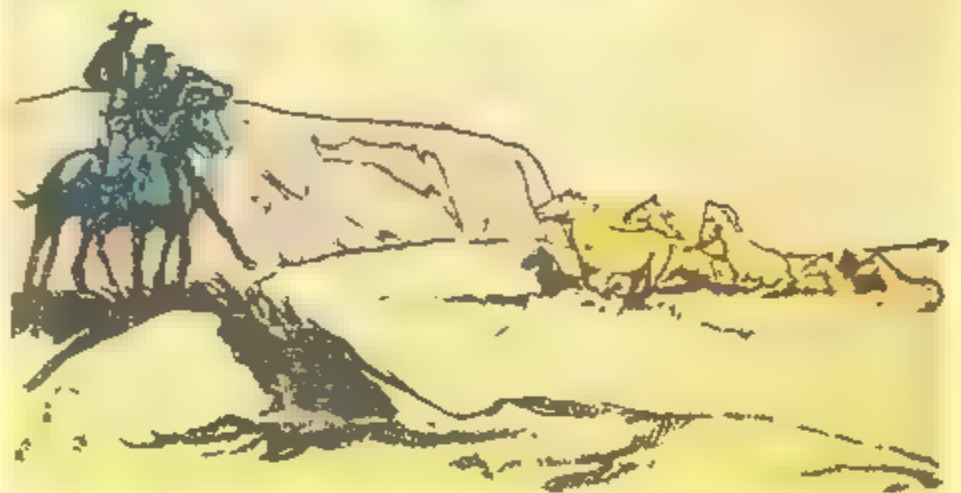


I REGKON UNCLE MIKE WAS RIGHT ABOUT A STORM IN THE MOUNTAINS, CURLY--- SEE THAT BLACK CLOUD?

IT'S GROWING BIGGER EVERY MINUTE! AWFUL LOT OF WATER WILL START RUNNING OFF THAT MOUNTAIN SIDE WHEN IT BREAKS!



I HOPE IT DOESN'T FLOOD OUR CLAIM IN THE OLD RIVER BED--- LOOK! TRIGGER'S COMING AFTER US!



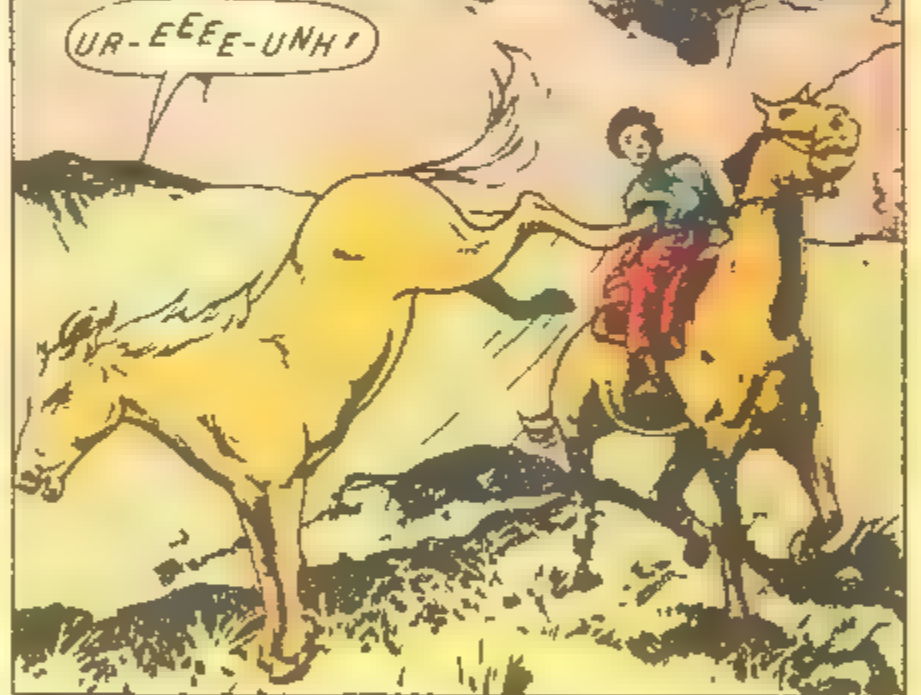
G'WAN, TRIGGER! GET BACK TO YOUR LADIES! YOU AREN'T COMING HOME WITH US!

WHAUGH!



GO ON! YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN--- AND NO USE OF YOUR ACTING SO CUTE!

UR-EEEE-UHH!

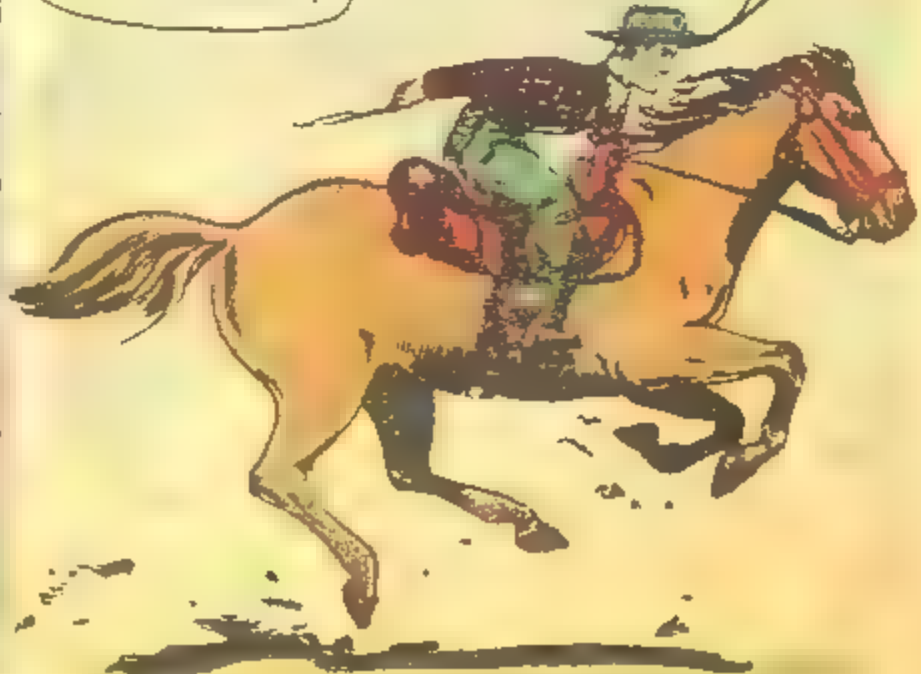


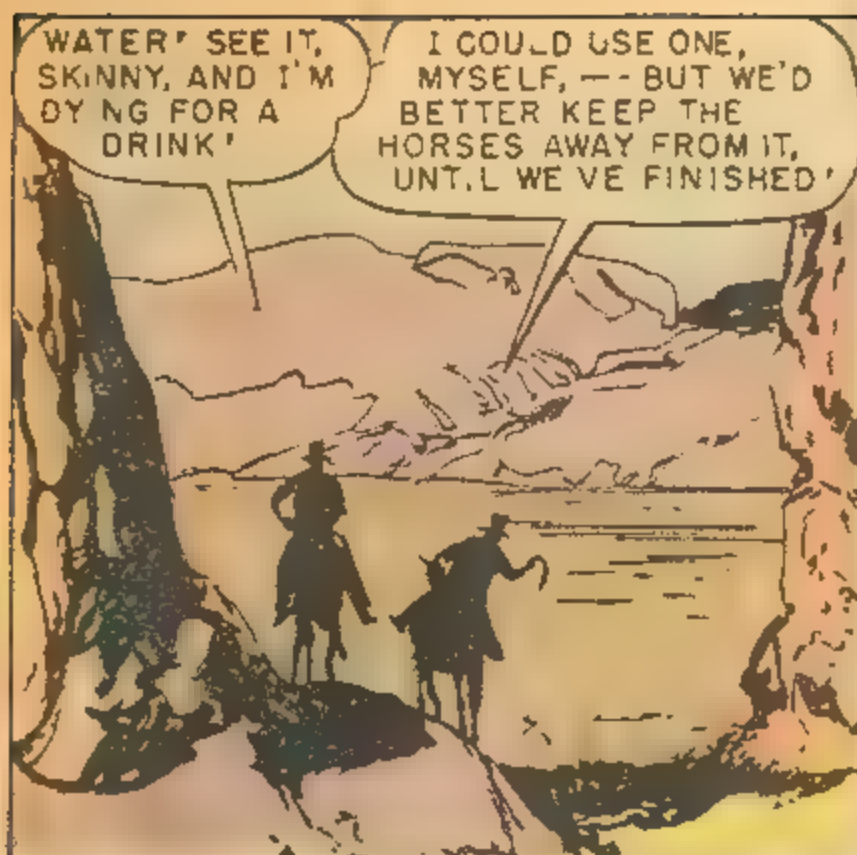
THAT STORM'S A CLOUDBURST--- WORSE THAN I THOUGHT AT FIRST, PETE! WE'LL HAVE TO RIDE FOR IT!

WHY? IT'S NOT COMING THIS WAY, CURLY!



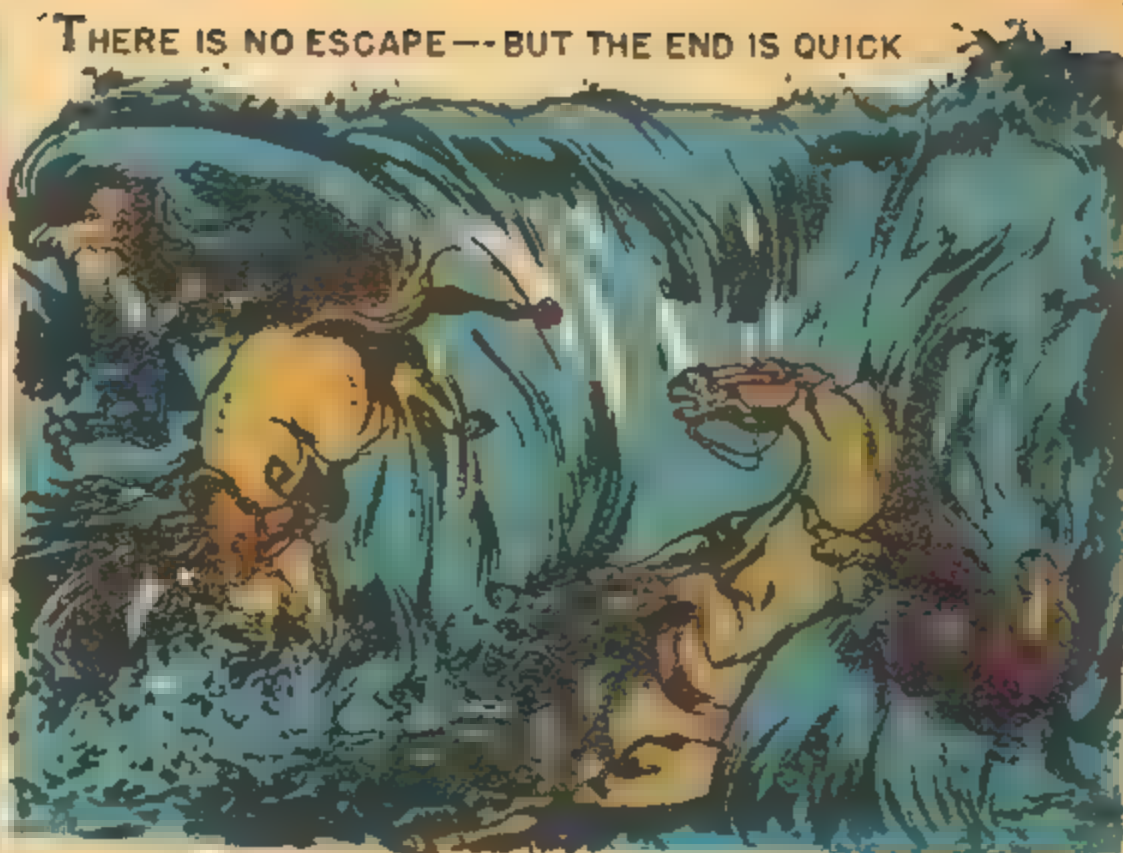
THE WATER IS! IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, IT'LL ALL COME A-BOOMING DOWN THE DRY WASH WHERE WE FOUND THEM NUGGETS--- AND IF IT DOES, WE MAY NEVER FIND THE EXACT SPOT AGAIN!



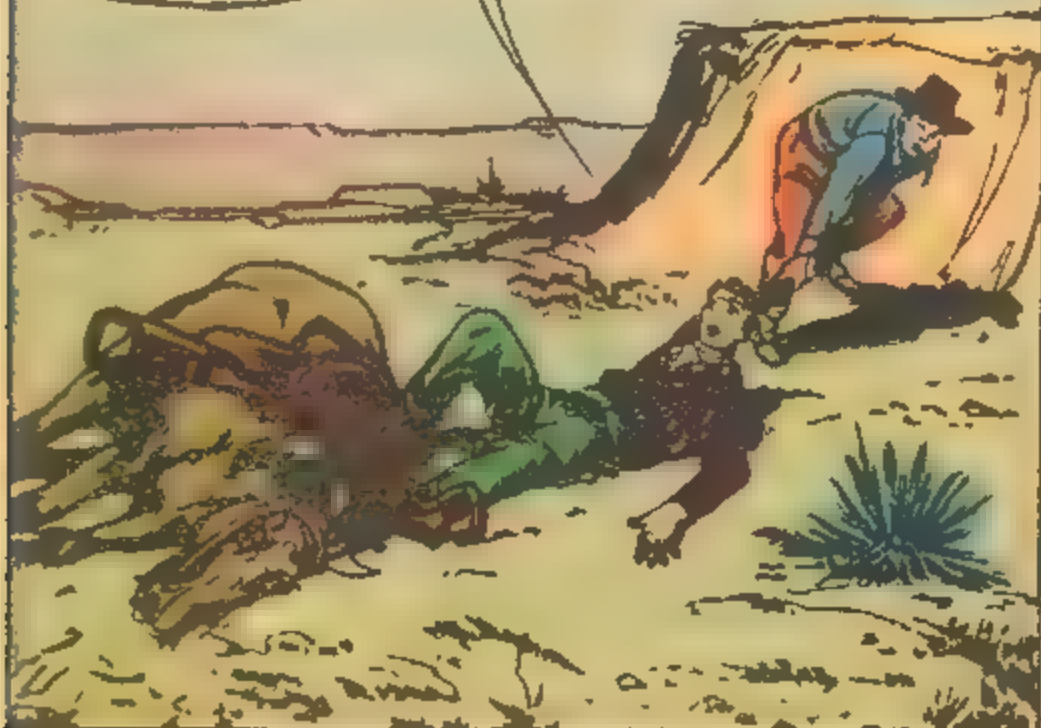


THE THUNDER OF FLOOD WATER, RUSHING AROUND THE BEND, DROWNS THE SCREAMS OF HORSES AND RIDERS.

THERE IS NO ESCAPE-- BUT THE END IS QUICK

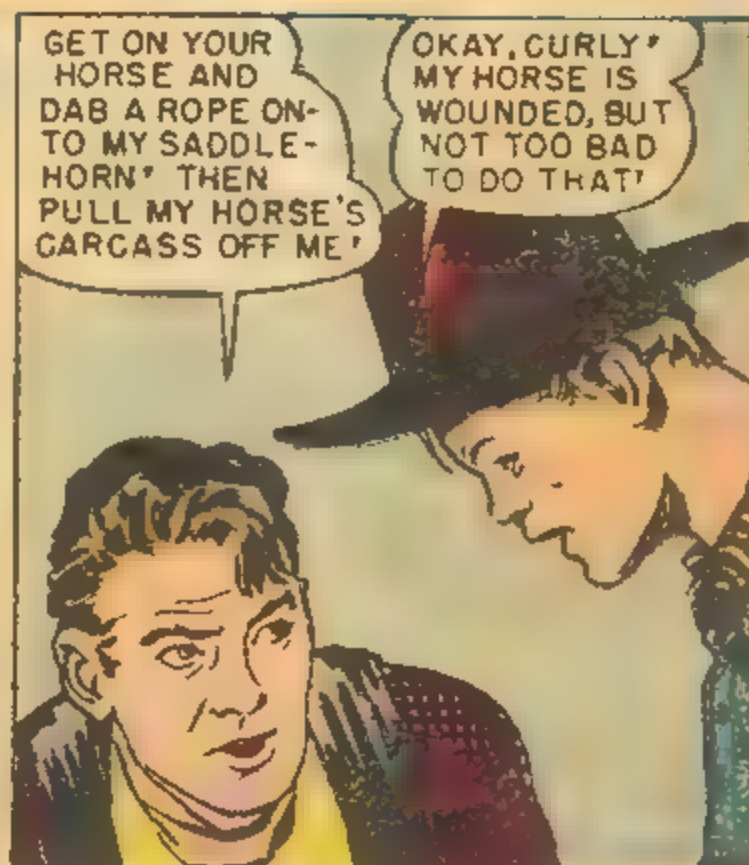


UMMMH! UNNNH! HOLD ON, PETE! WE'LL NEVER GET MY FOOT LOOSE THIS WAY!

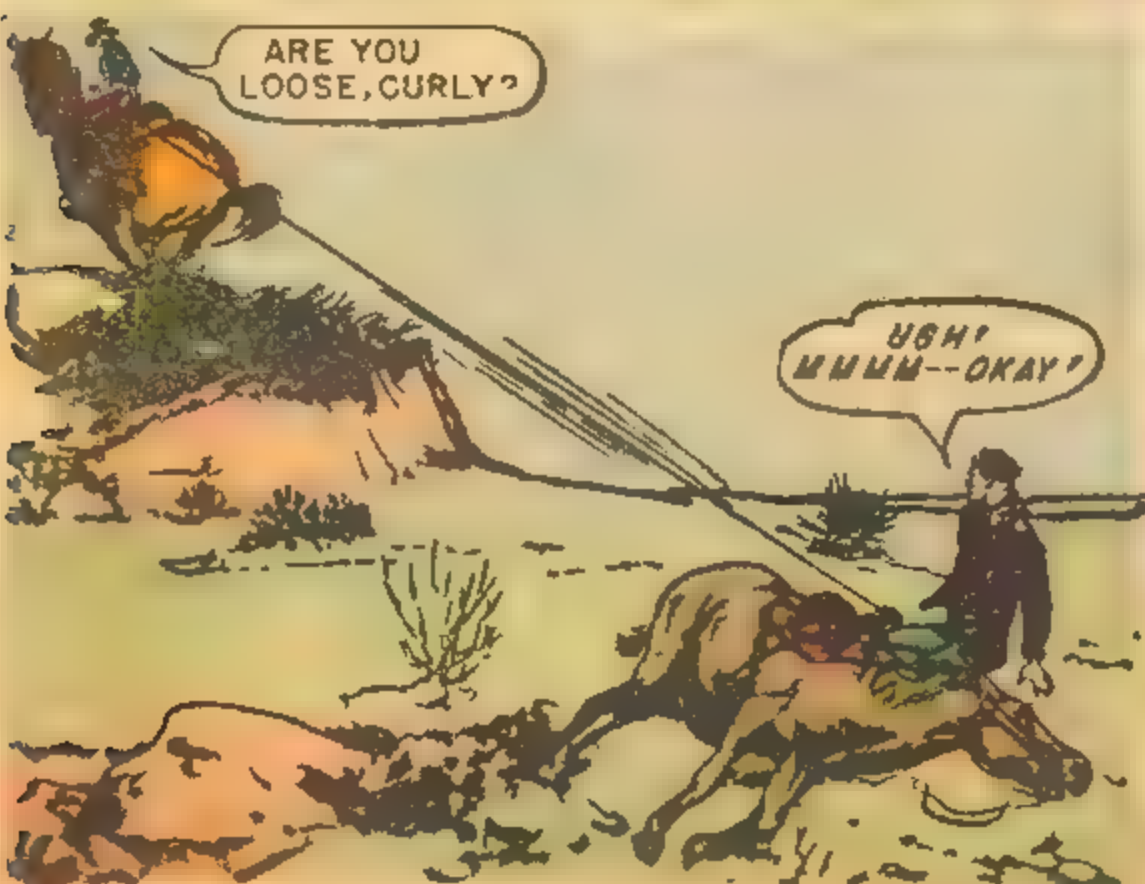


GET ON YOUR HORSE AND DAB A ROPE ON-TO MY SADDLE-HORN! THEN PULL MY HORSE'S CARCASS OFF ME!

OKAY, CURLY! MY HORSE IS WOUNDED, BUT NOT TOO BAD TO DO THAT!



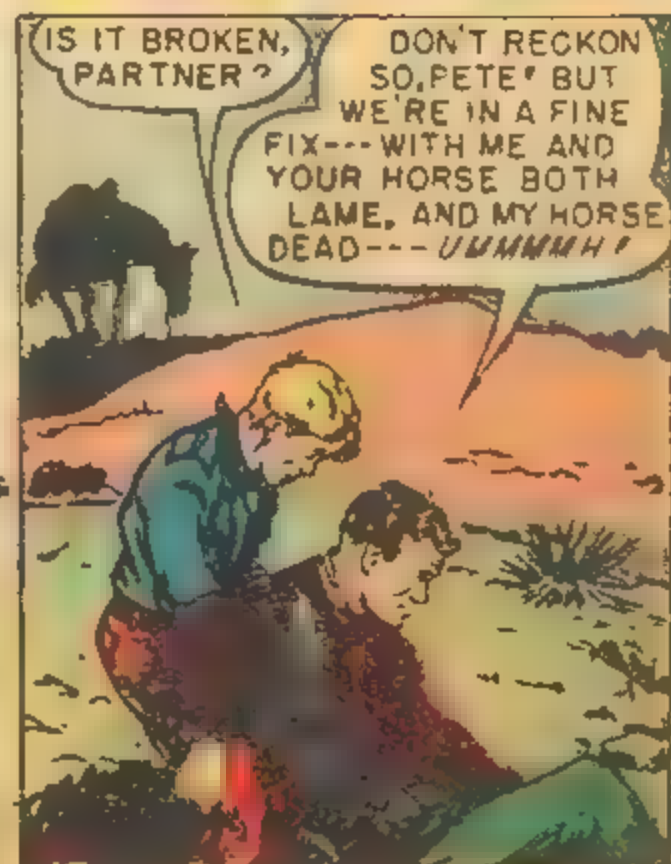
ARE YOU LOOSE, CURLY?

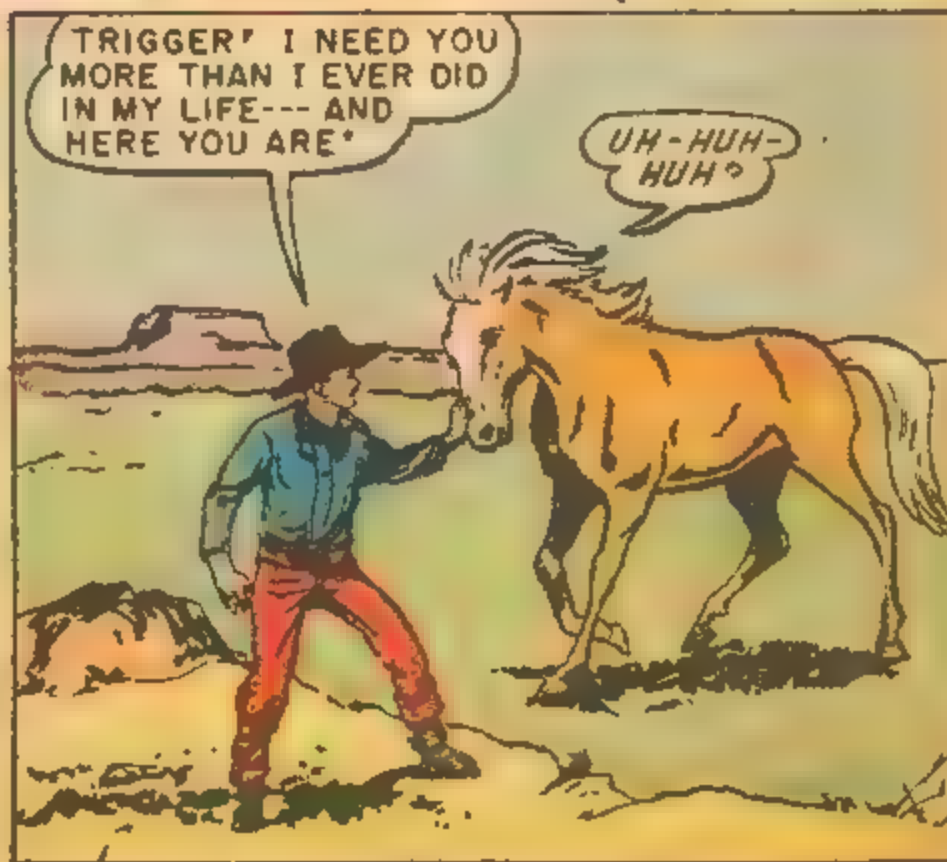
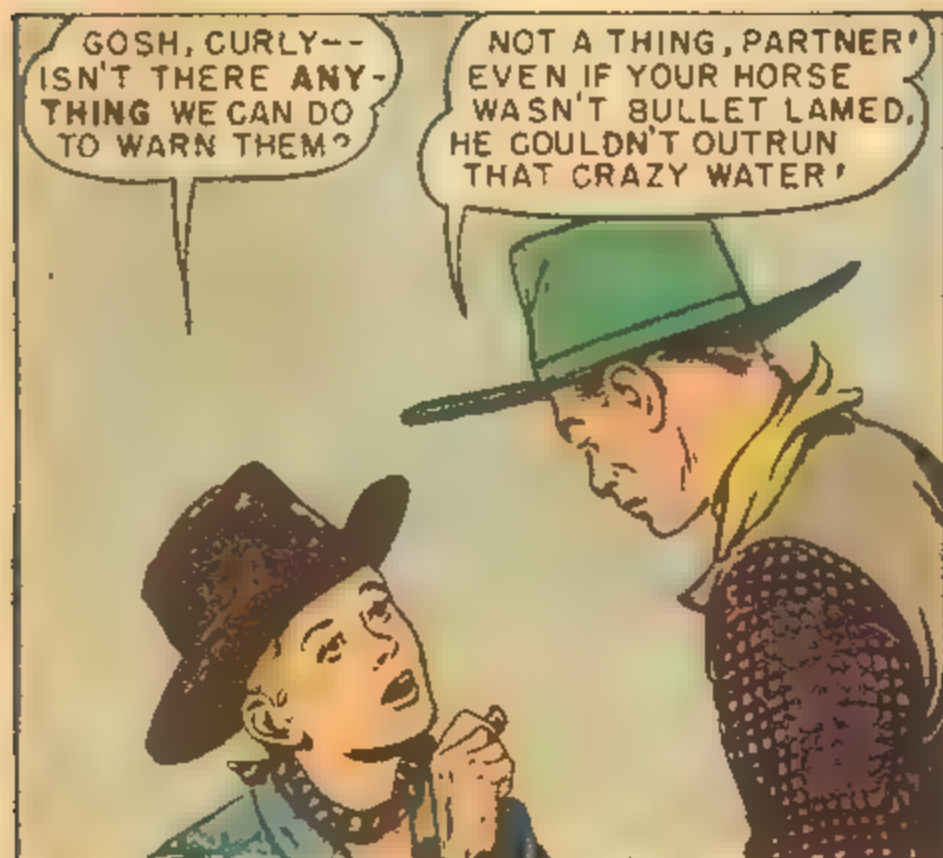
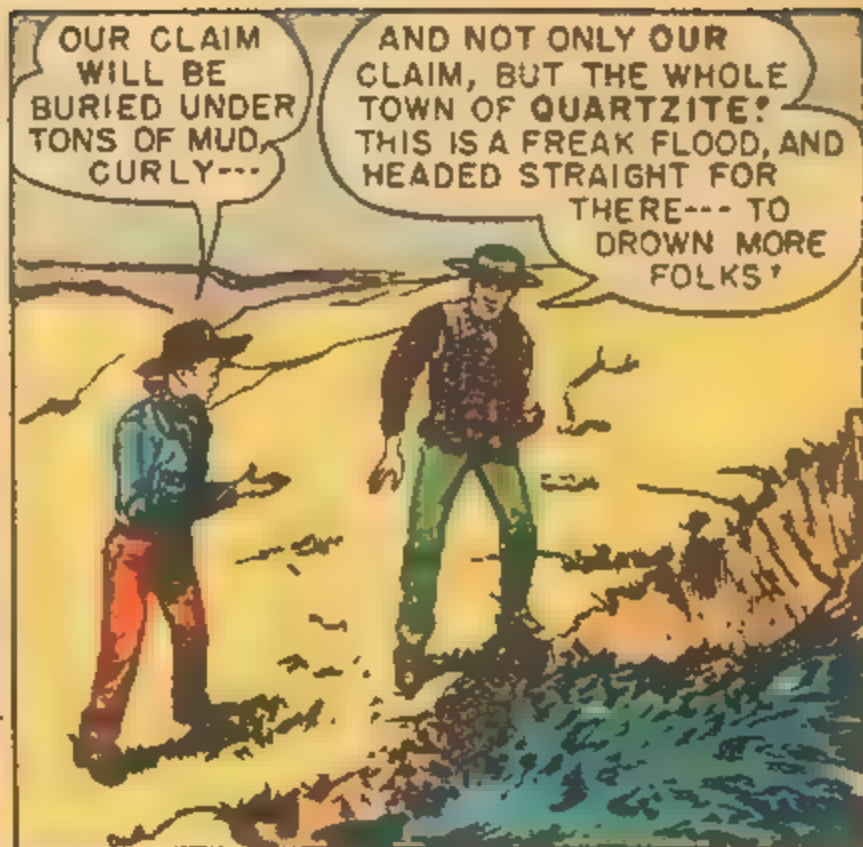
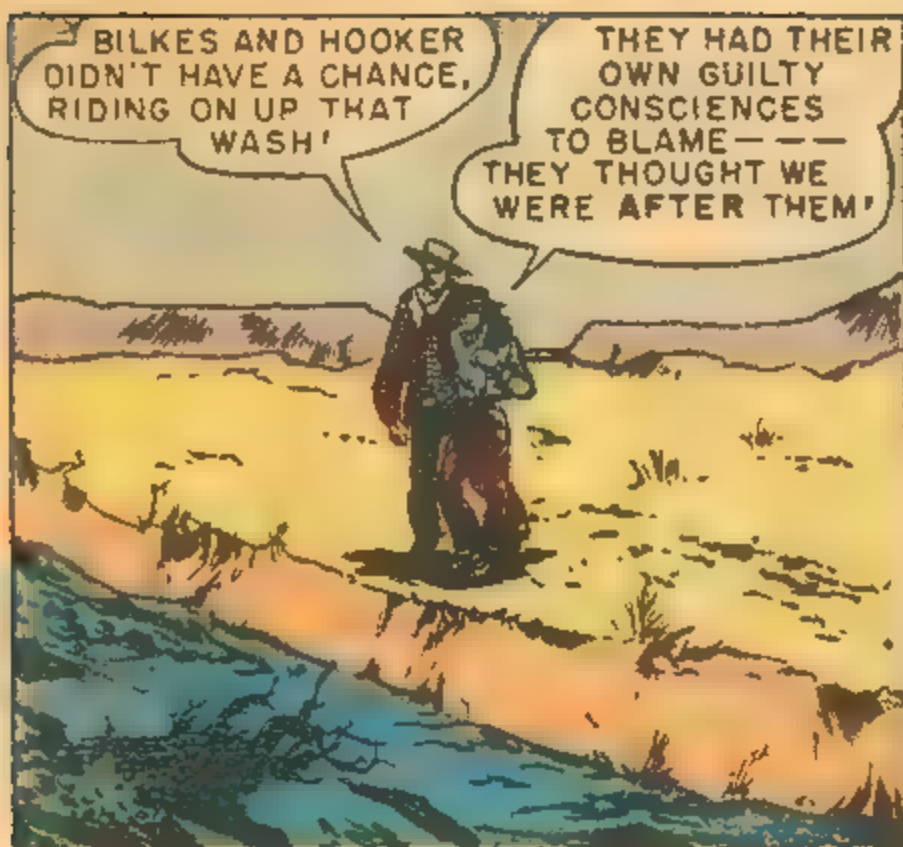


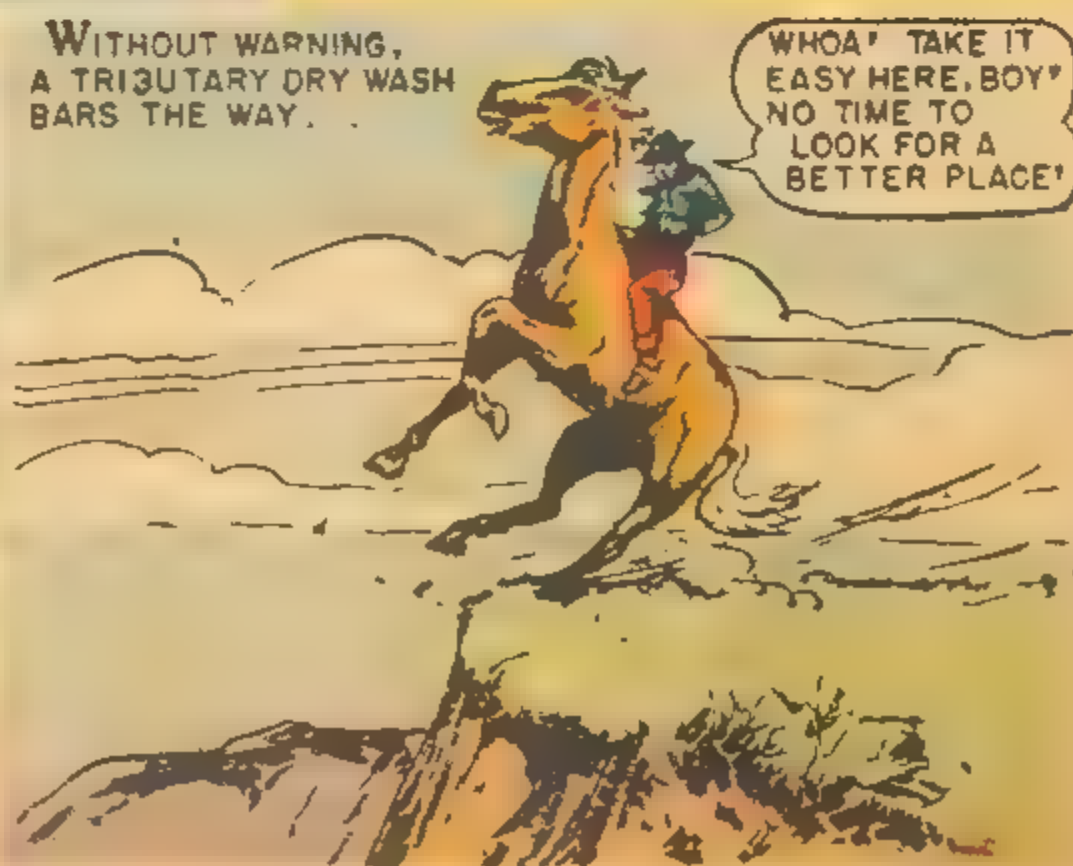
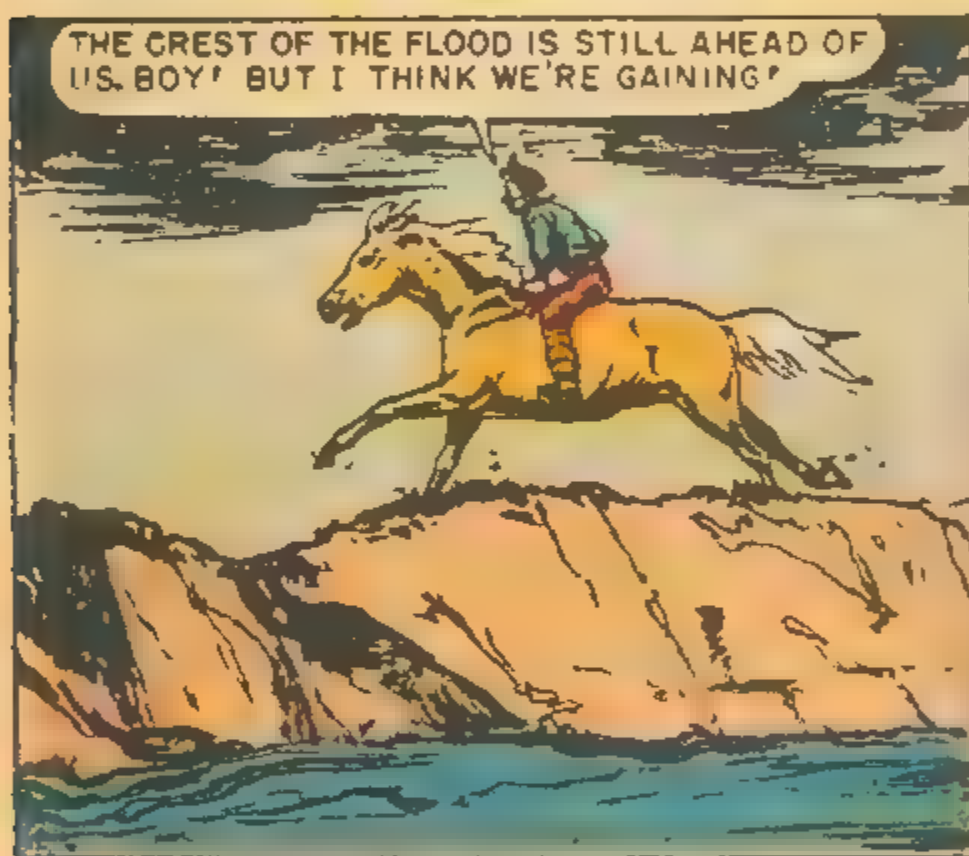
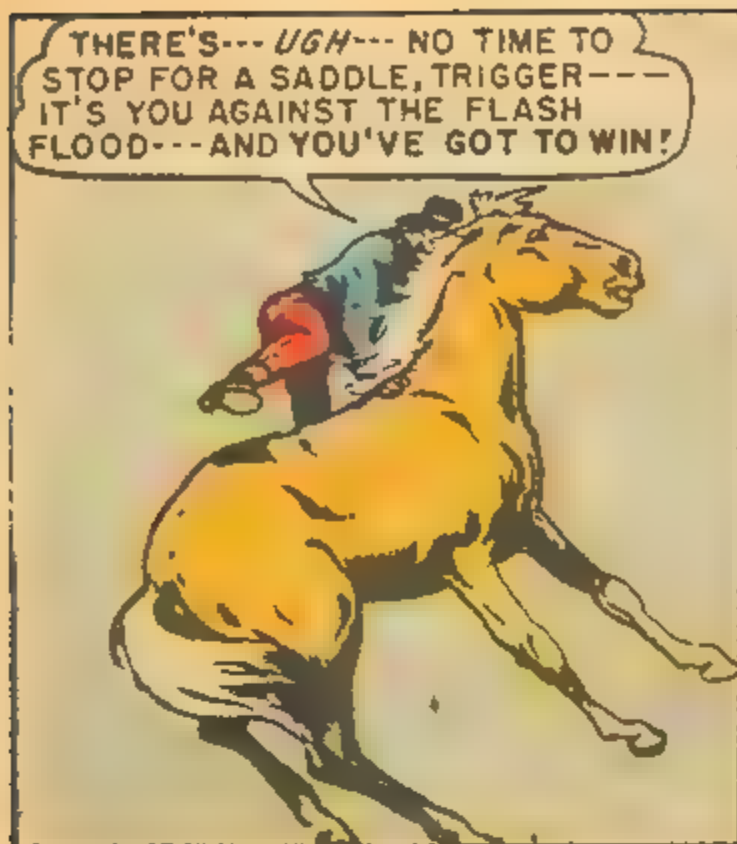
UGH! MMM--OKAY!

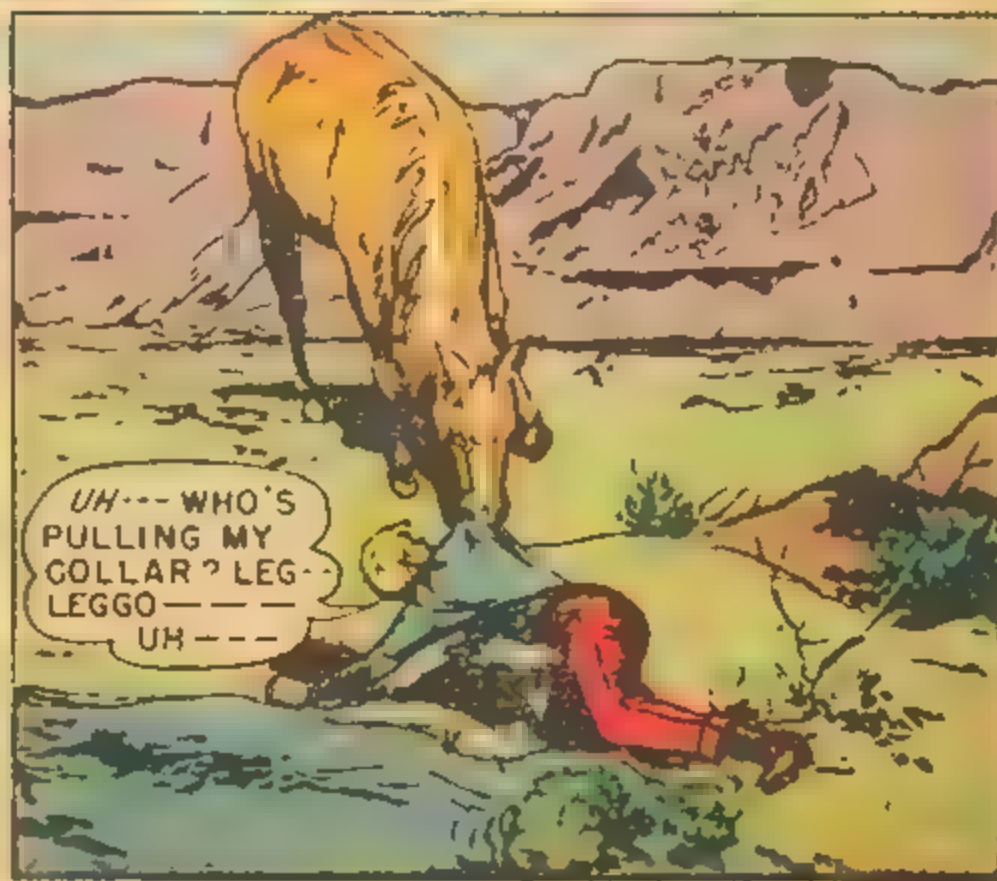
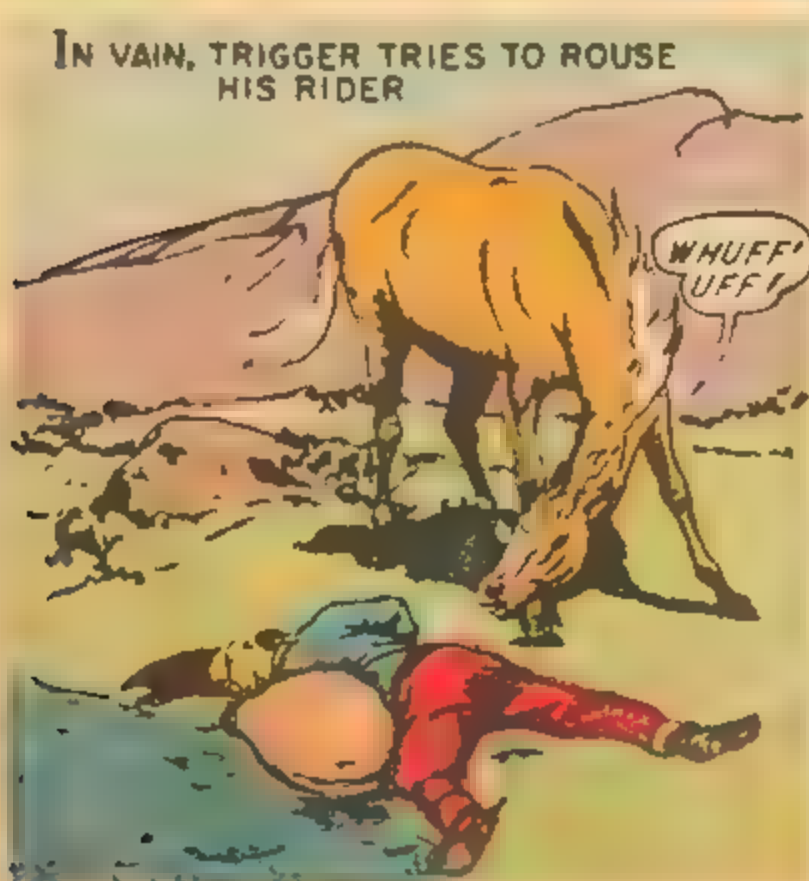
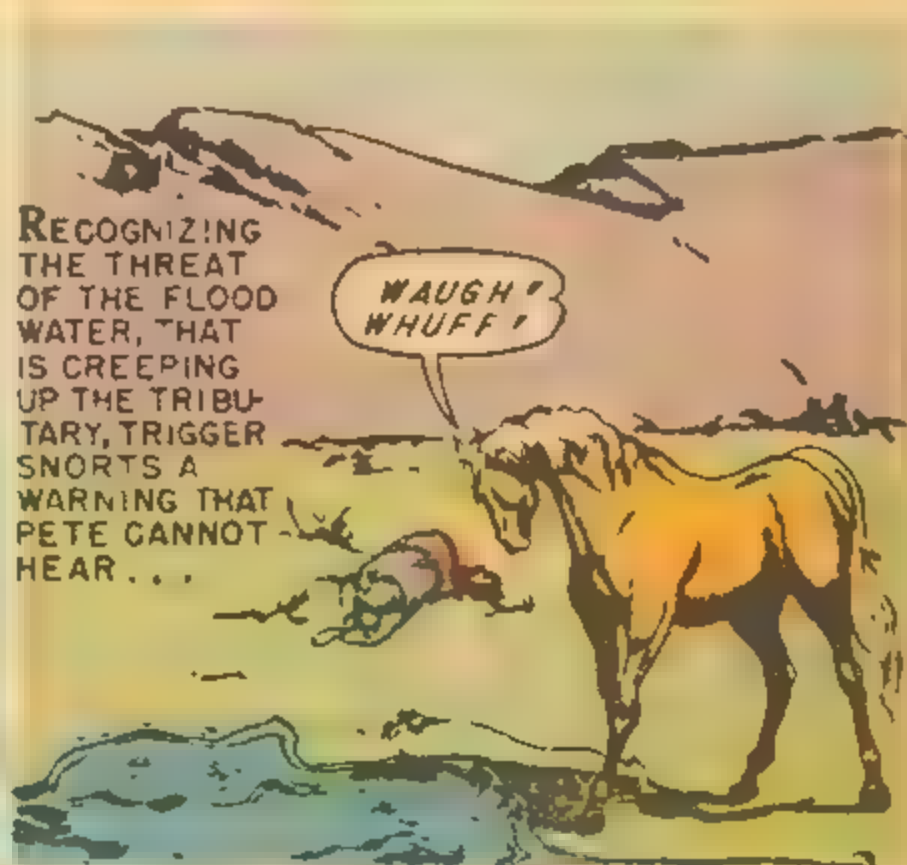
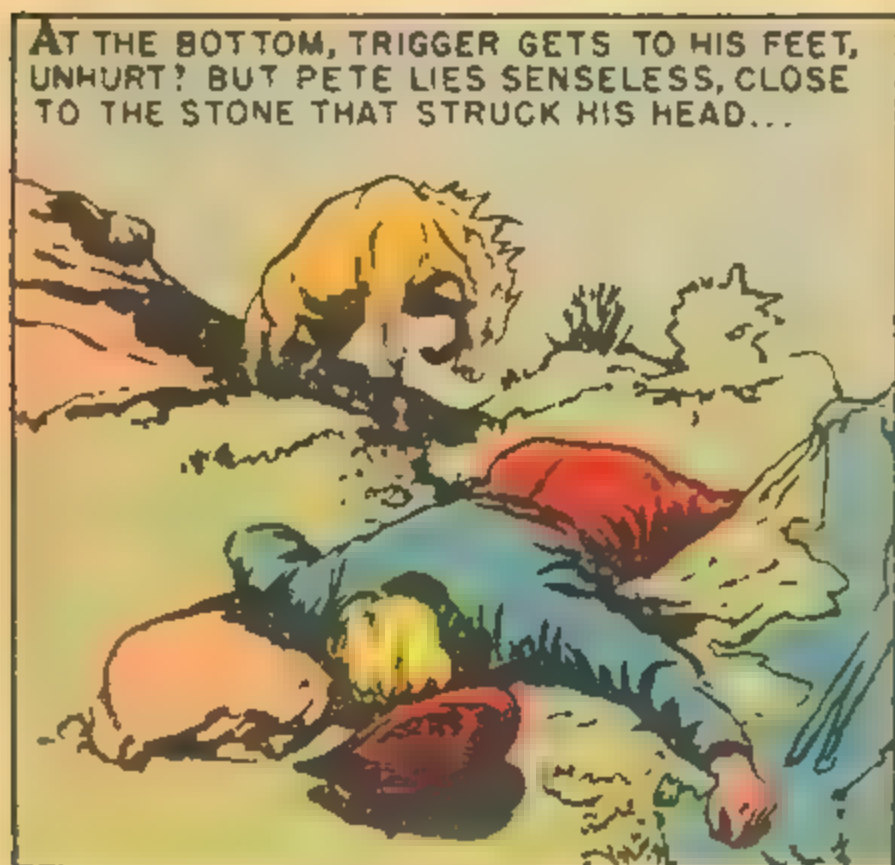
IS IT BROKEN, PARTNER?

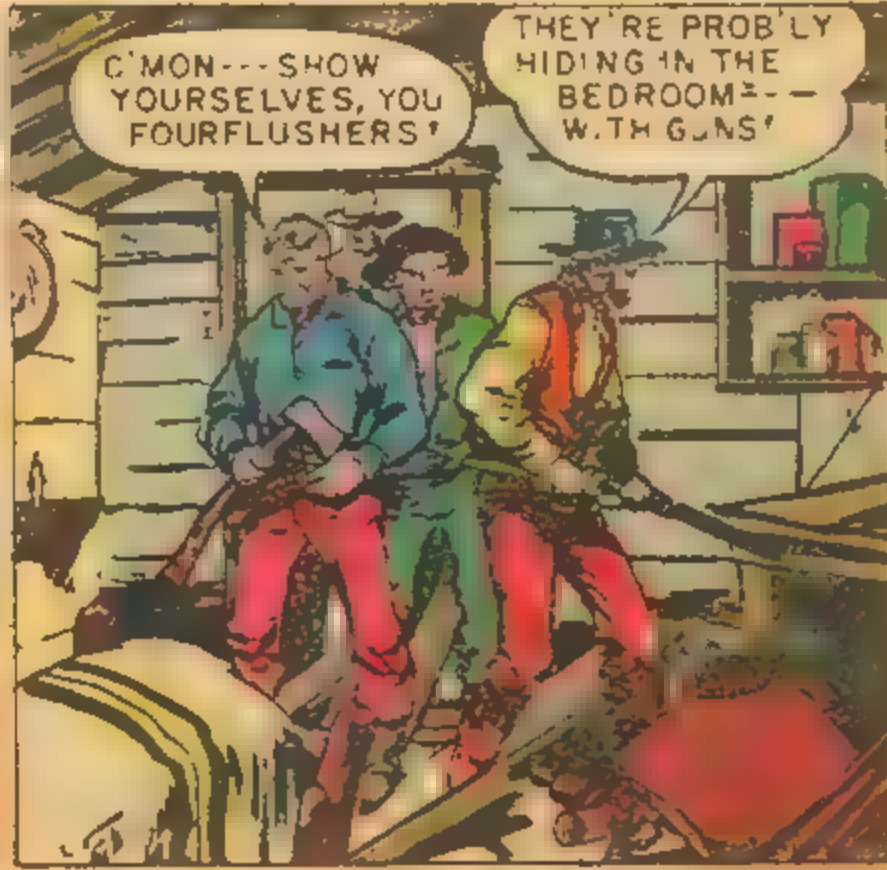
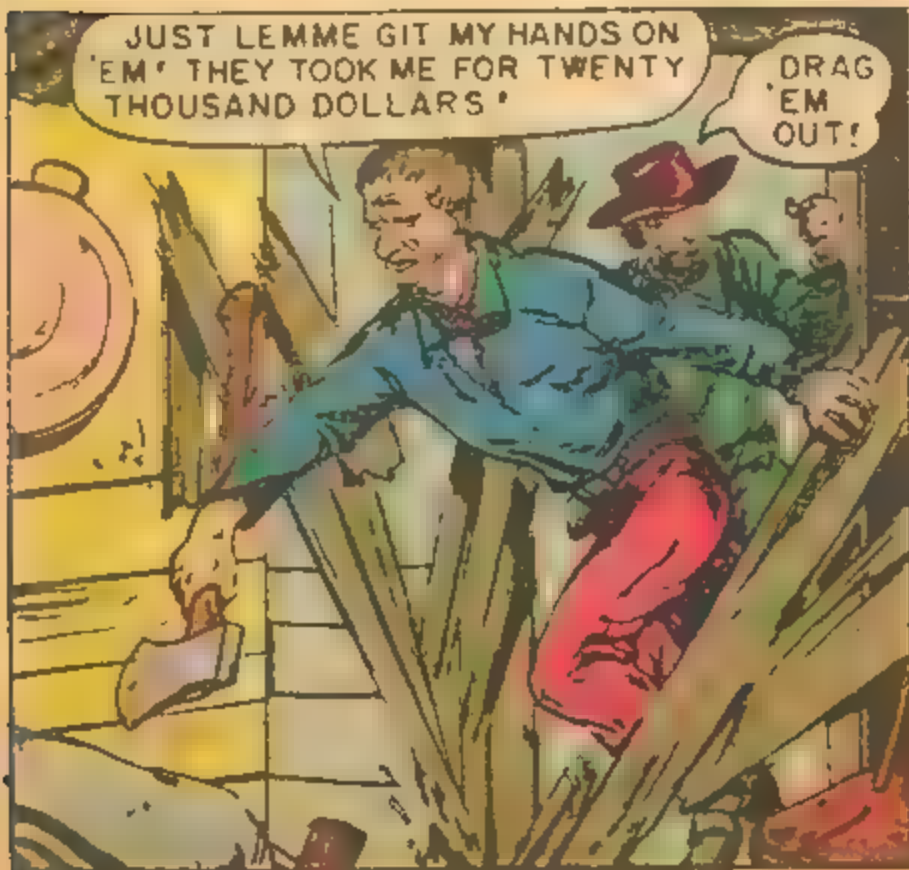
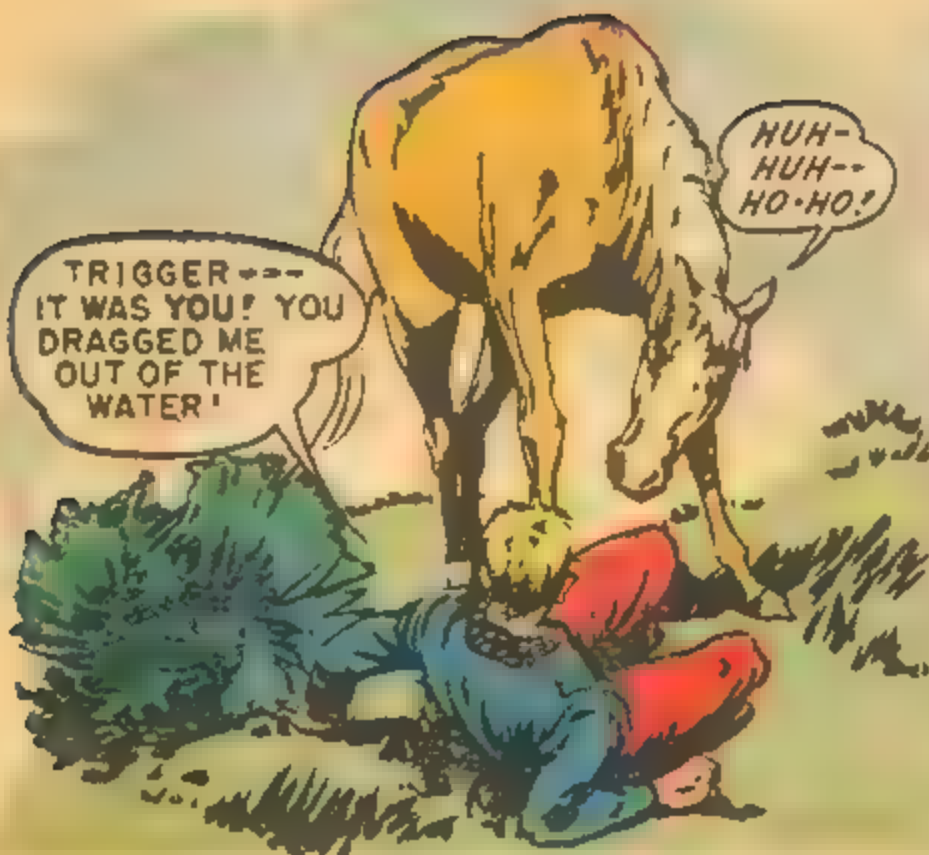
DON'T RECKON SO, PETE! BUT WE'RE IN A FINE FIX--- WITH ME AND YOUR HORSE BOTH LAME, AND MY HORSE DEAD--- UMMMMH!













EMPTY!

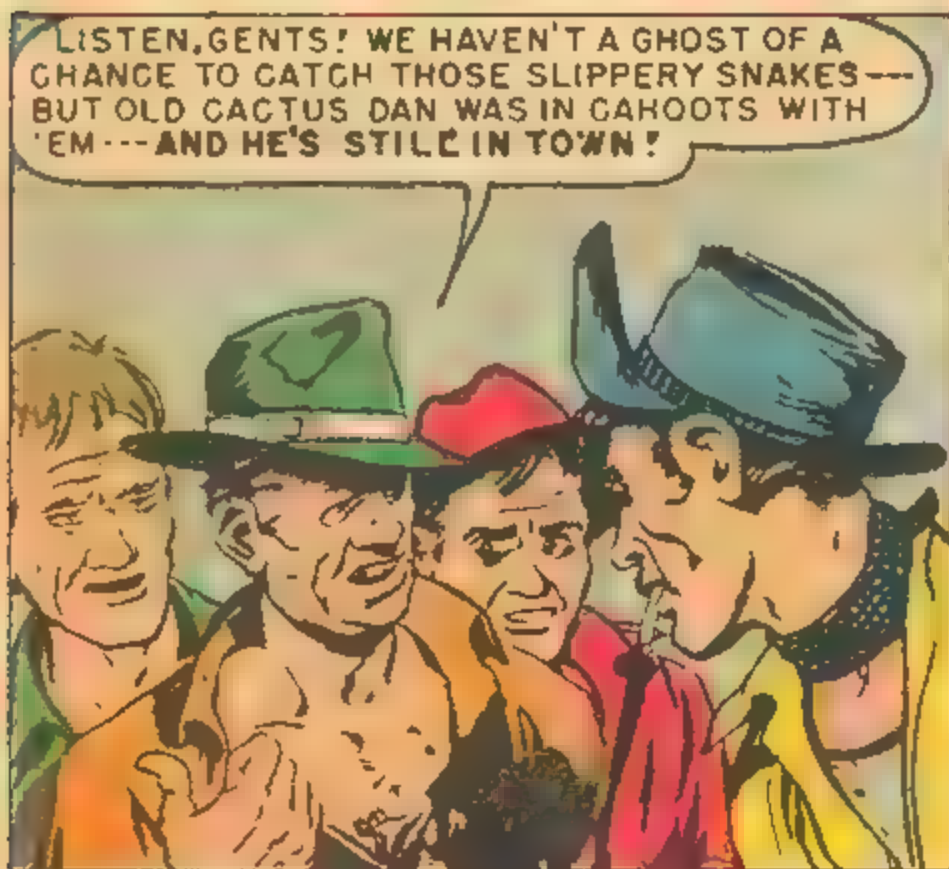
THEY RAN OUT
ON US--- THE
SIDEWINDERS!



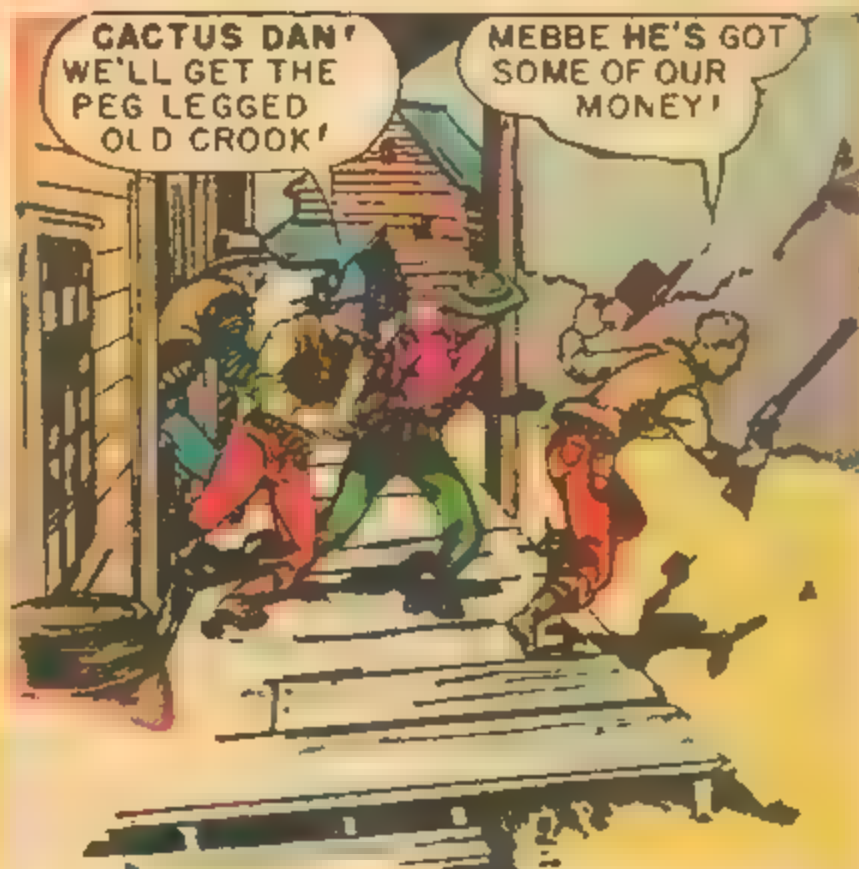
BLAST 'EM!
THEY'VE
RUINED US!
ALL OUR MONEY
IS GONE!

--FOR WORTH-
LESS MINES!
SHOOTIN' WOULD
BE TOO GOOD
FOR 'EM!

WHAT'LL
WE DO?
CAN'T WE
TRAIL 'EM?



LISTEN, GENTS! WE HAVEN'T A GHOST OF A
CHANCE TO CATCH THOSE SLIPPERY SNAKES---
BUT OLD CACTUS DAN WAS IN CAHOOTS WITH
'EM---AND HE'S STILL IN TOWN!



CACTUS DAN!
WE'LL GET THE
PEG LEGGED
OLD CROOK!

MEBBE HE'S GOT
SOME OF OUR
MONEY!

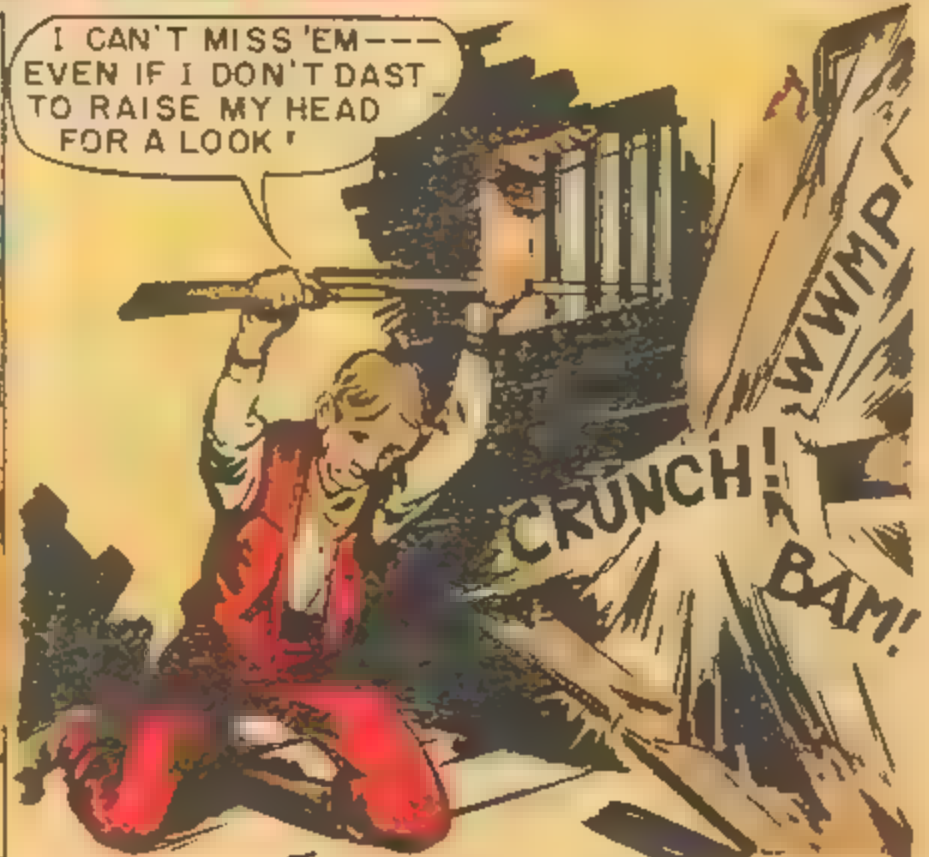
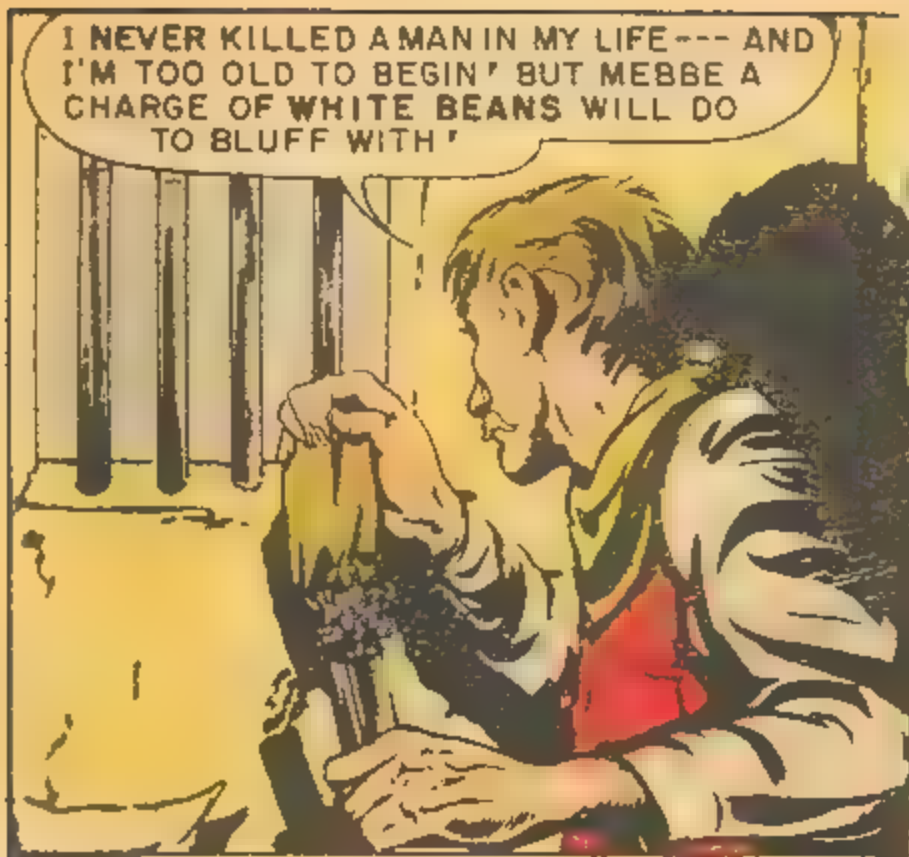


HE'S AT HOME IN
HIS JAILHOUSE ---
SMOKE COMING
OUTA THE CHIMNEY!

BARS WON'T
BLUFF US---
WE'LL TEAR THE
PLACE DOWN!



THEY'RE AFTER ME--- AND THERE
AIN'T TIME TO ASK WHY! I BETTER
GET FIXED TO DEFEND MYSELF!





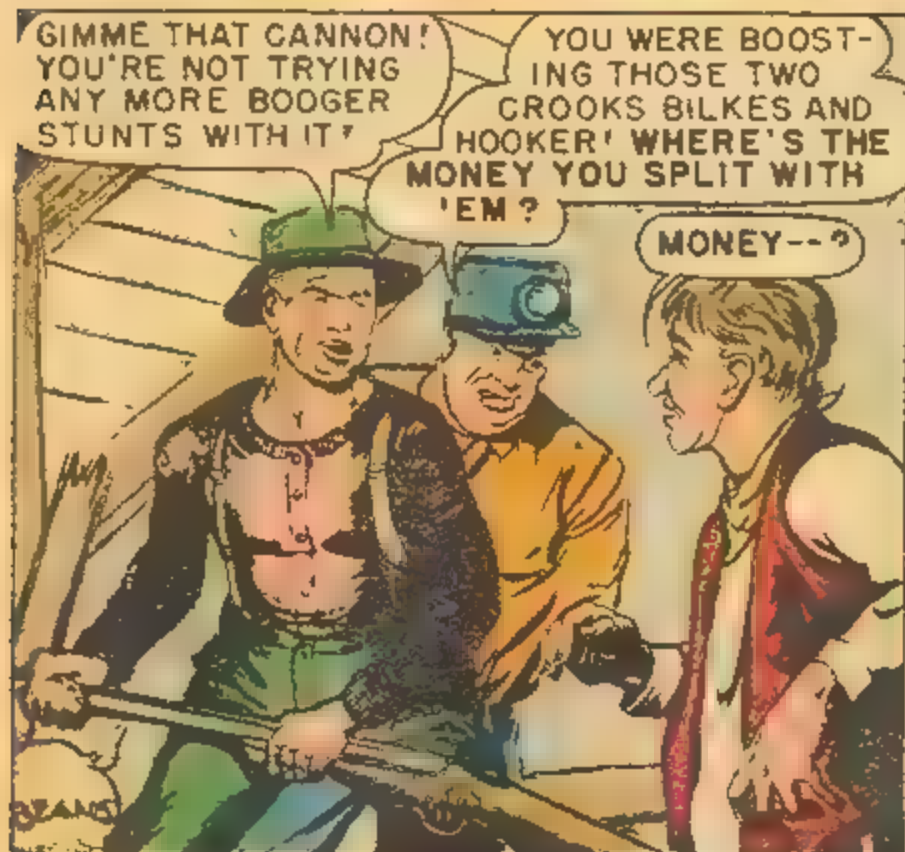
BEANS! THE OL' CUSS
SHOT US WITH WHITE
BEANS! HAW! HAW!



HA, HA, HA!
HE SURE PLAYED A
GOOD ONE ON US---
WHITE BEANS!

HAW! HAW!
HE HAD ME
FOOLED!

THERE
GOES THE
DOOR!



GIMME THAT CANNON!
YOU'RE NOT TRYING
ANY MORE BOOGER
STUNTS WITH IT!

YOU WERE BOOST-
ING THOSE TWO
CROOKS BILKES AND
HOOKER! WHERE'S THE
MONEY YOU SPLIT WITH
'EM?

MONEY---



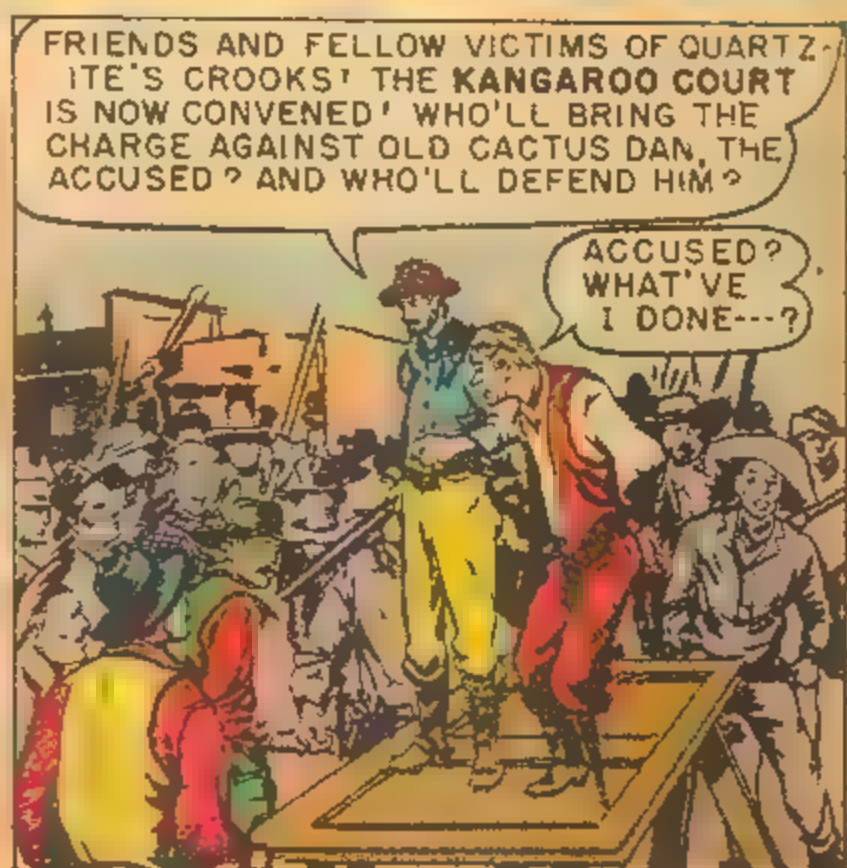
SEARCH THE PLACE, BOYS---IT WON'T
TAKE BUT A MINUTE! THEN WE'LL
HOLD A KANGAROO COURT!

OKAY,
BLACK JACK!



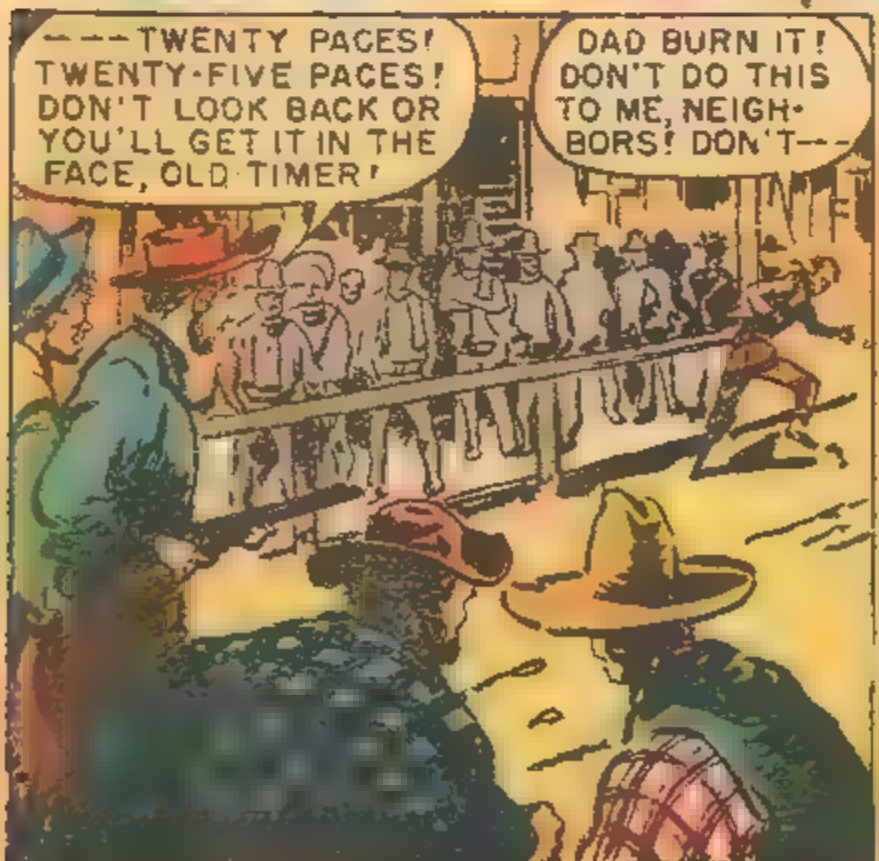
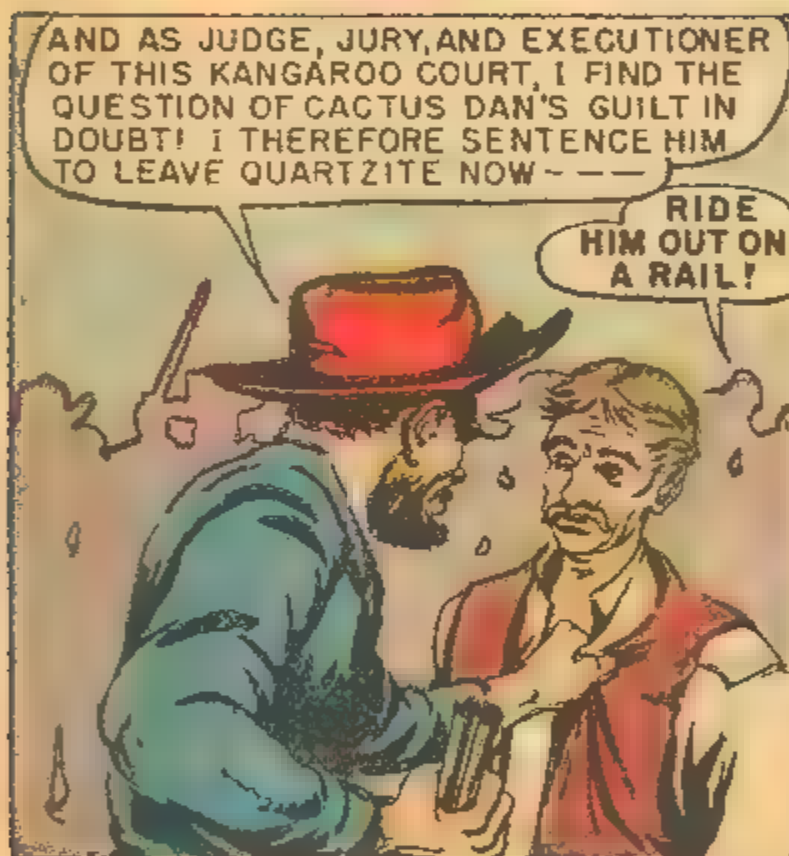
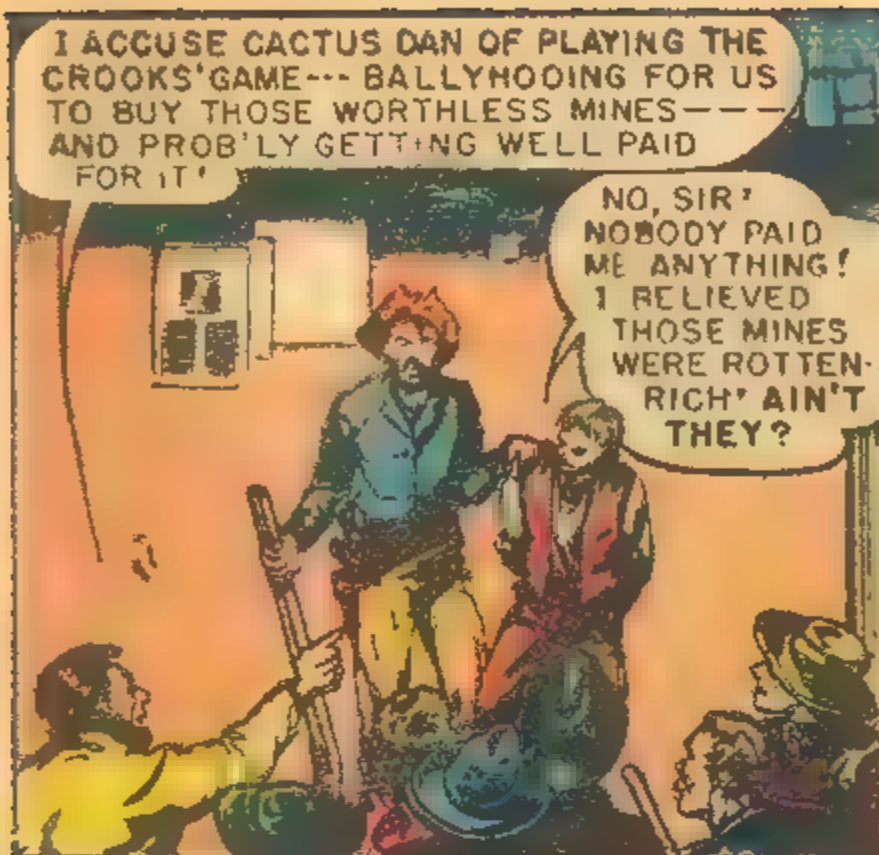
BLACK JACK, THERE'S
ONLY THIRTY DOLLARS
OR SO IN GOLD DUST---
AND A DOLLAR IN COINS!

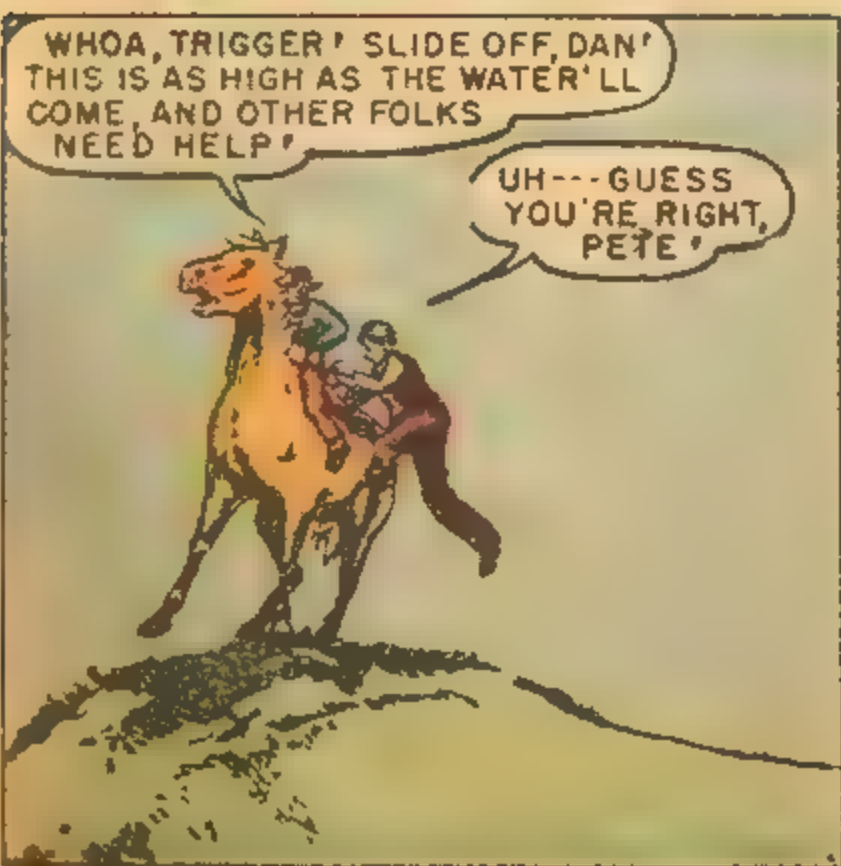
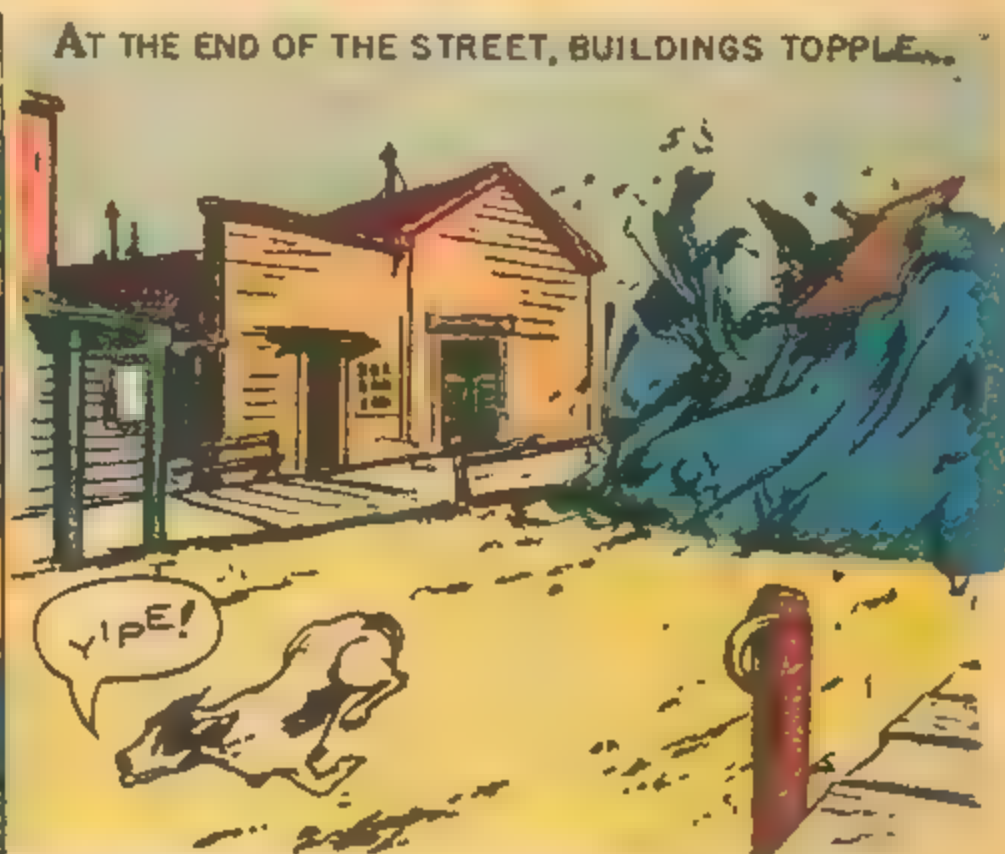
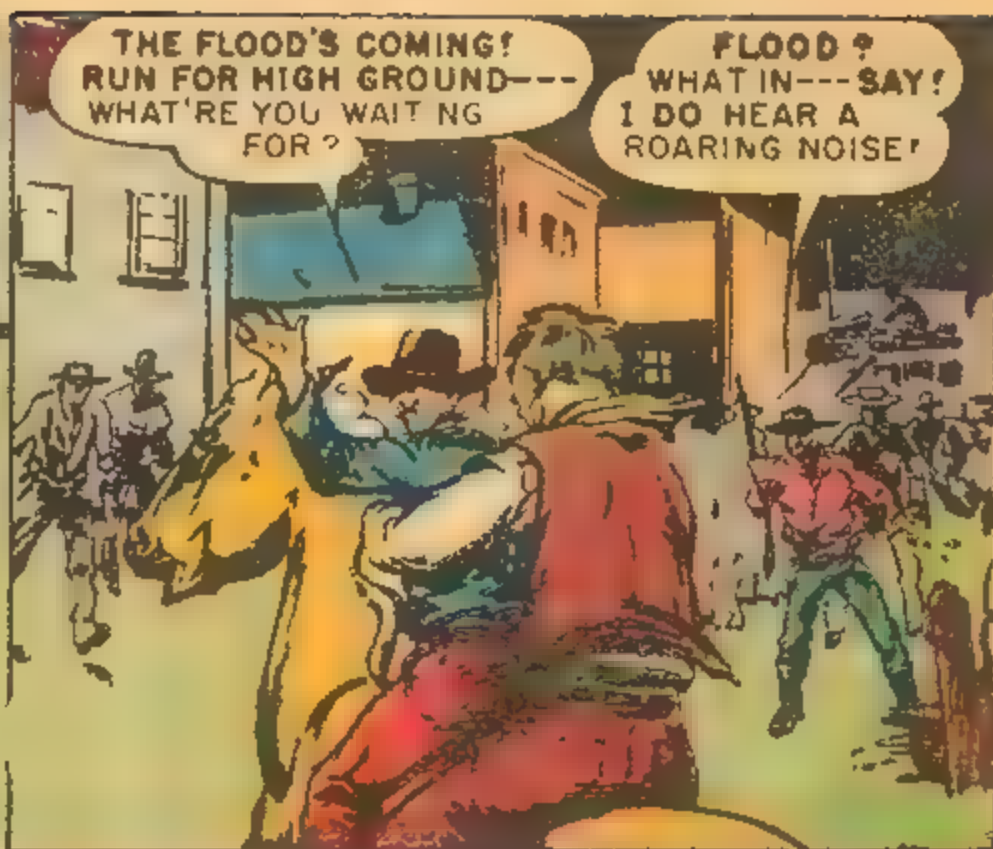
BRING IT ALONG
TO COURT! MAKE
WAY, GENTS!

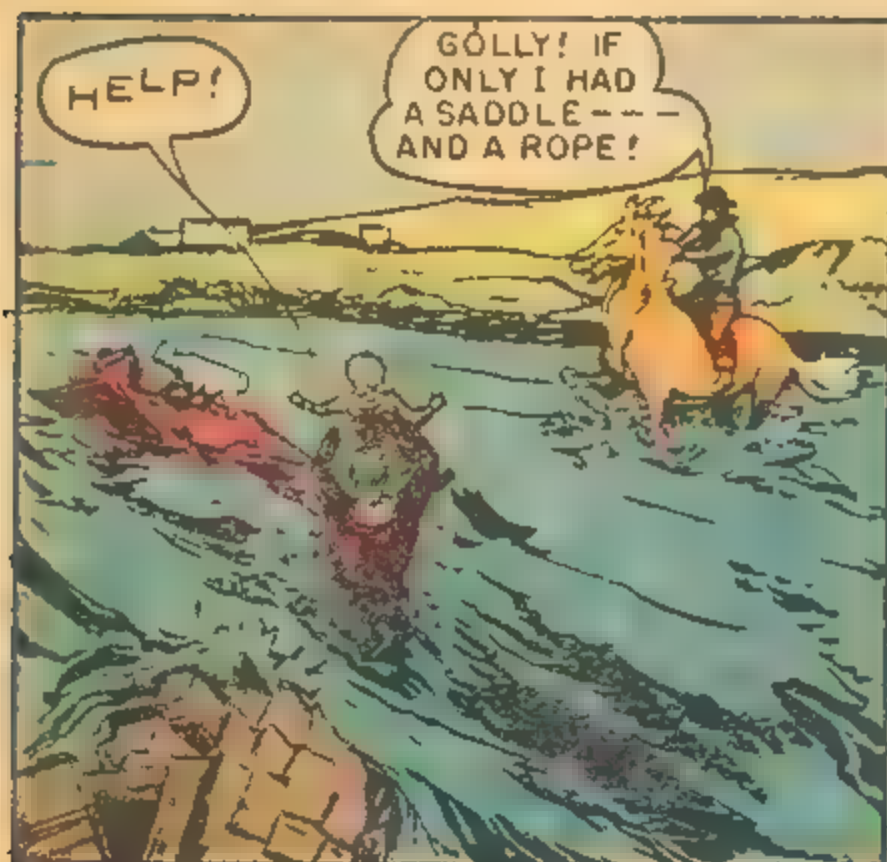


FRIENDS AND FELLOW VICTIMS OF QUARTZ-
ITE'S CROOKS! THE KANGAROO COURT
IS NOW CONVENED! WHO'LL BRING THE
CHARGE AGAINST OLD CACTUS DAN, THE
ACCUSED? AND WHO'LL DEFEND HIM?

ACCUSED?
WHAT'VE
I DONE---

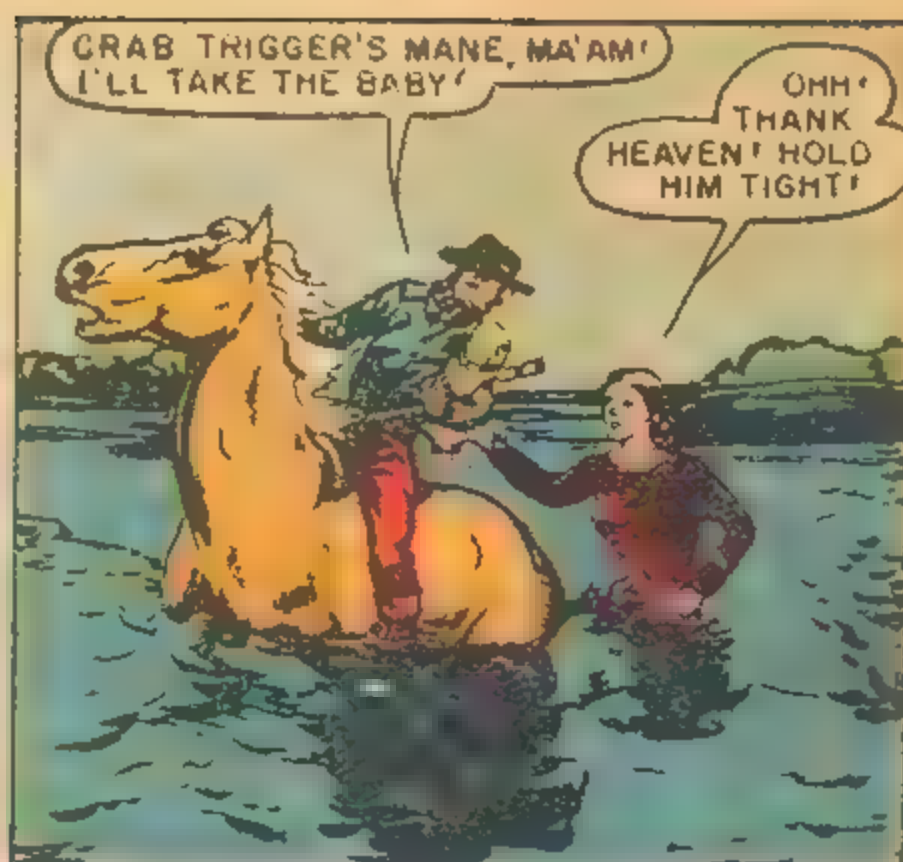






HELP!

GOLLY! IF ONLY I HAD A SADDLE --- AND A ROPE!



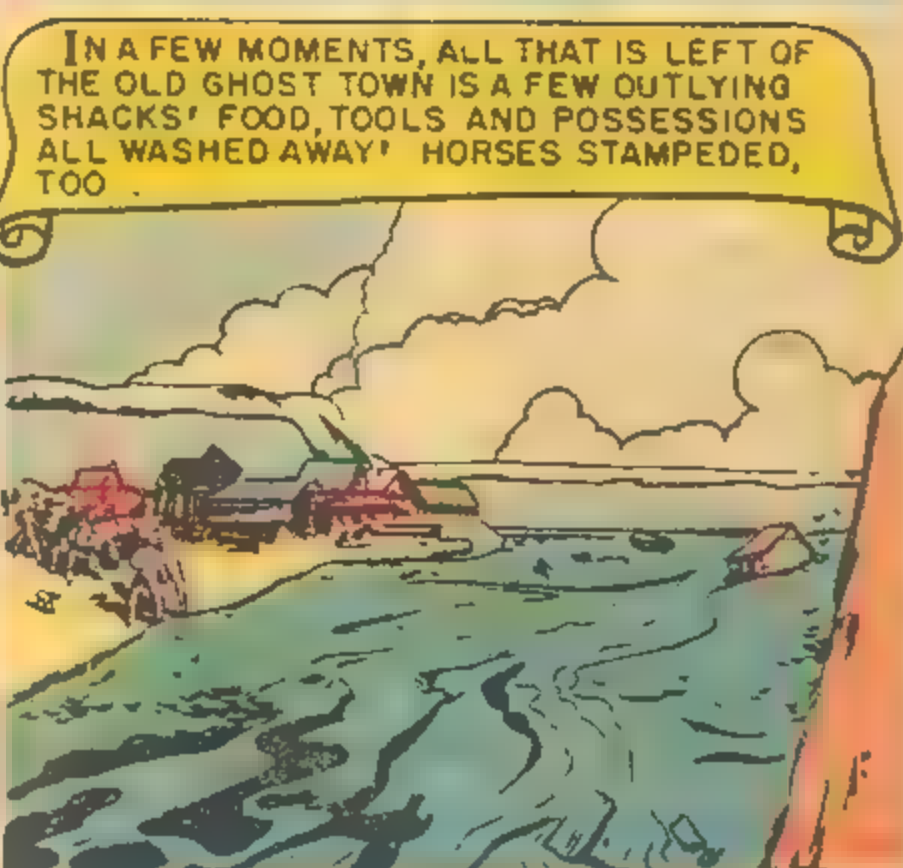
GRAB TRIGGER'S MANE, MA'AM! I'LL TAKE THE BABY!

OH! THANK HEAVEN! HOLD HIM TIGHT!

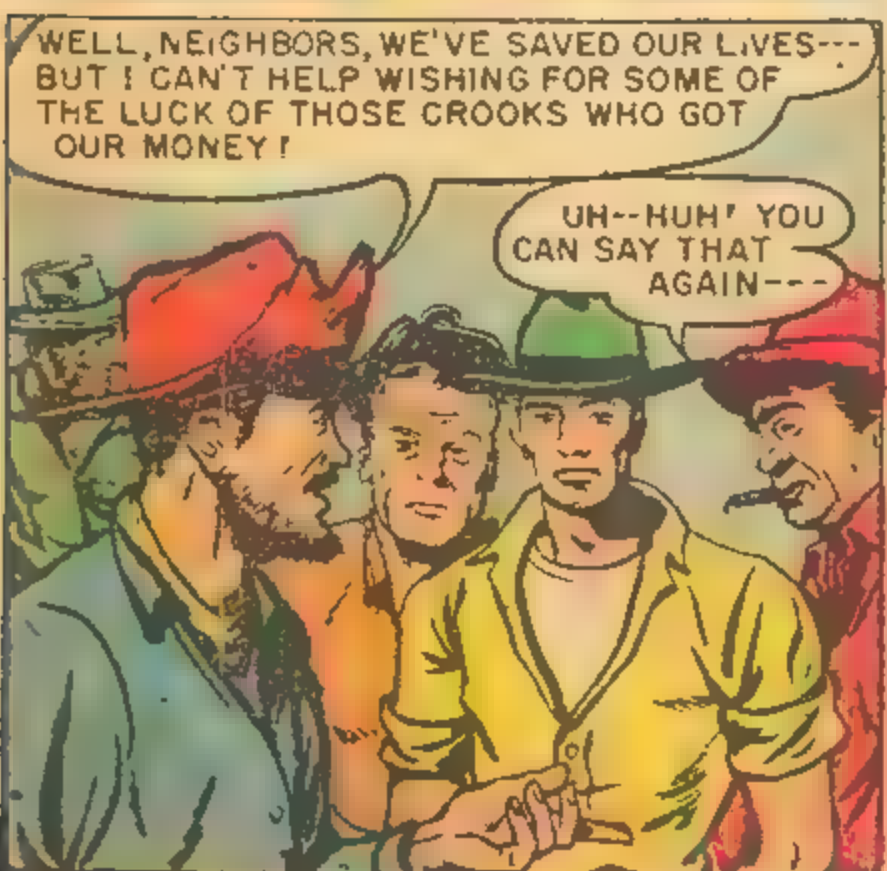


YOU'RE SAFE NOW, MA'AM---

--- THANKS TO YOU --- AND THIS WONDERFUL HORSE! WE'RE ALIVE, EVEN IF WE DID LOSE OUR CLOTHES AND FOOD!

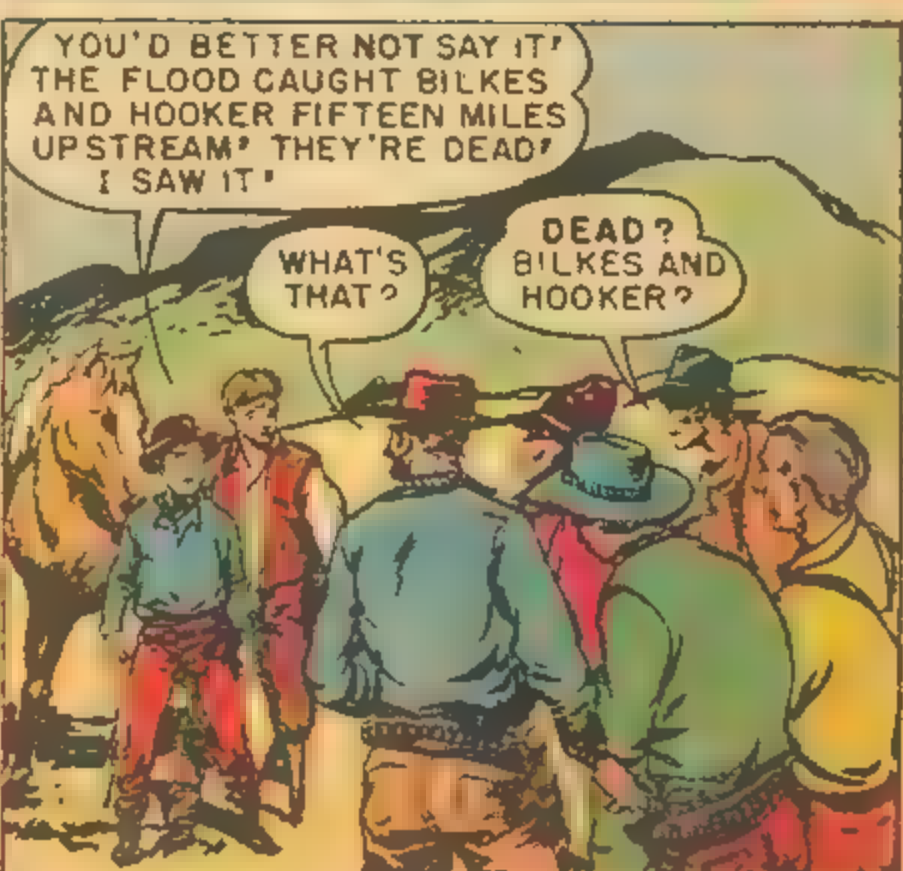


IN A FEW MOMENTS, ALL THAT IS LEFT OF THE OLD GHOST TOWN IS A FEW OUTLYING SHACKS! FOOD, TOOLS AND POSSESSIONS ALL WASHED AWAY! HORSES STAMPEDED, TOO.



WELL, NEIGHBORS, WE'VE SAVED OUR LIVES--- BUT I CAN'T HELP WISHING FOR SOME OF THE LUCK OF THOSE CROOKS WHO GOT OUR MONEY!

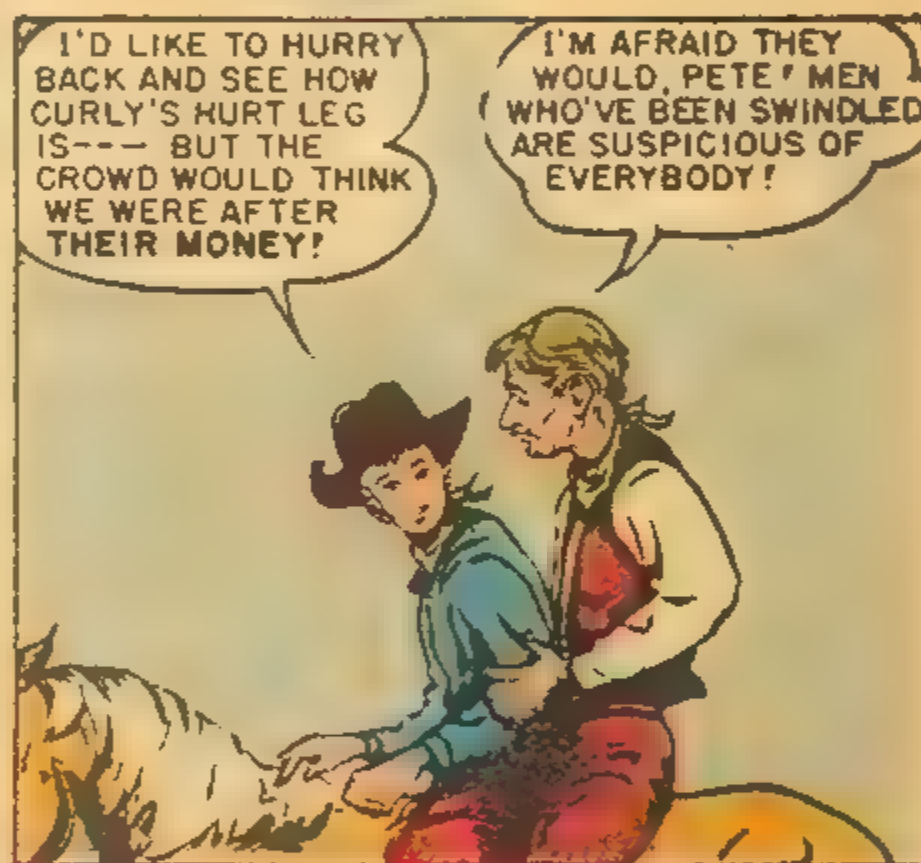
UH--HUH! YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN---

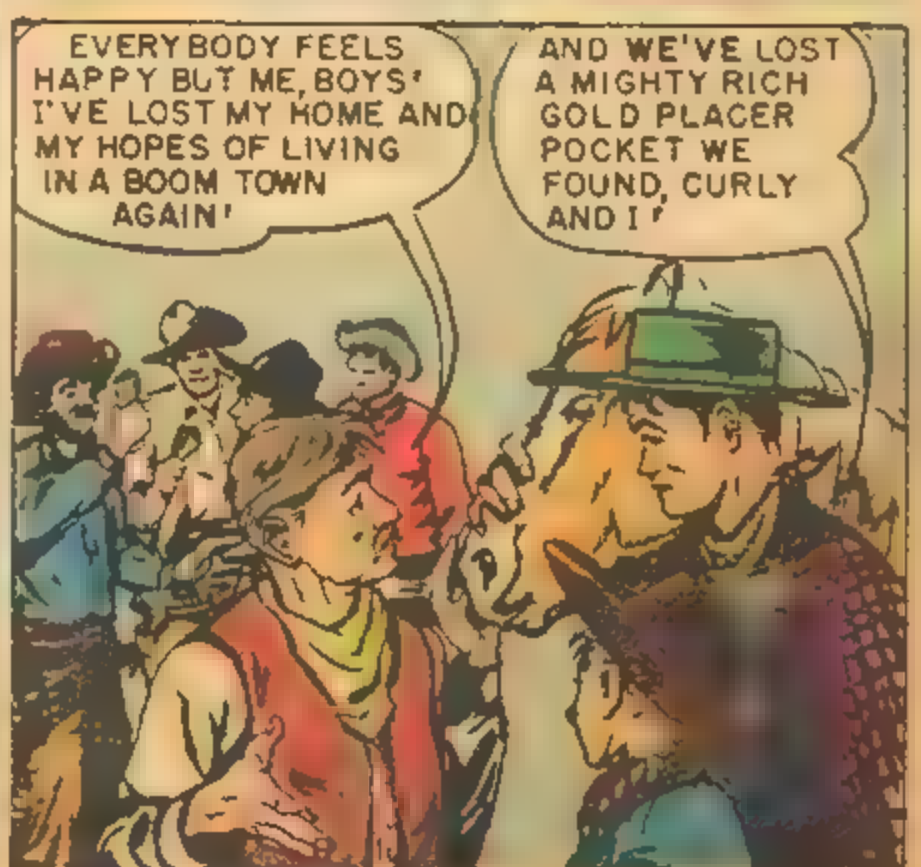


YOU'D BETTER NOT SAY IT! THE FLOOD CAUGHT BILKES AND HOOKER FIFTEEN MILES UPSTREAM! THEY'RE DEAD! I SAW IT!

WHAT'S THAT?

DEAD? BILKES AND HOOKER?





ALL WE GOT WAS THESE NUGGETS! THE FLOOD COVERED THE PLACE WITH SILT AND WATER, AND CURLY SAYS WE'LL NEVER FIND THE POCKET AGAIN!



WELL, BOYS, HERE'S WHAT'S LEFT OF MR. BILKE'S AND MR. HOOKER--- BUT WE'VE GOT NO WAY TO DIG GRAVES! I'M STUMPED TO KNOW WHAT TO DO!



WHY CAN'T WE CAVE THE BANK OF THE WASH IN OVER THEM? DIG IT OUT WITH STICKS?



PETE IS RIGHT, BOYS! MEBBE STICKS WILL DO THE WHOLE JOB, WITH ENOUGH OF US WORKING! COME ON!

BE WITH YOU, BLACK JACK--- SOON AS WE FIND STICKS TO DIG WITH!

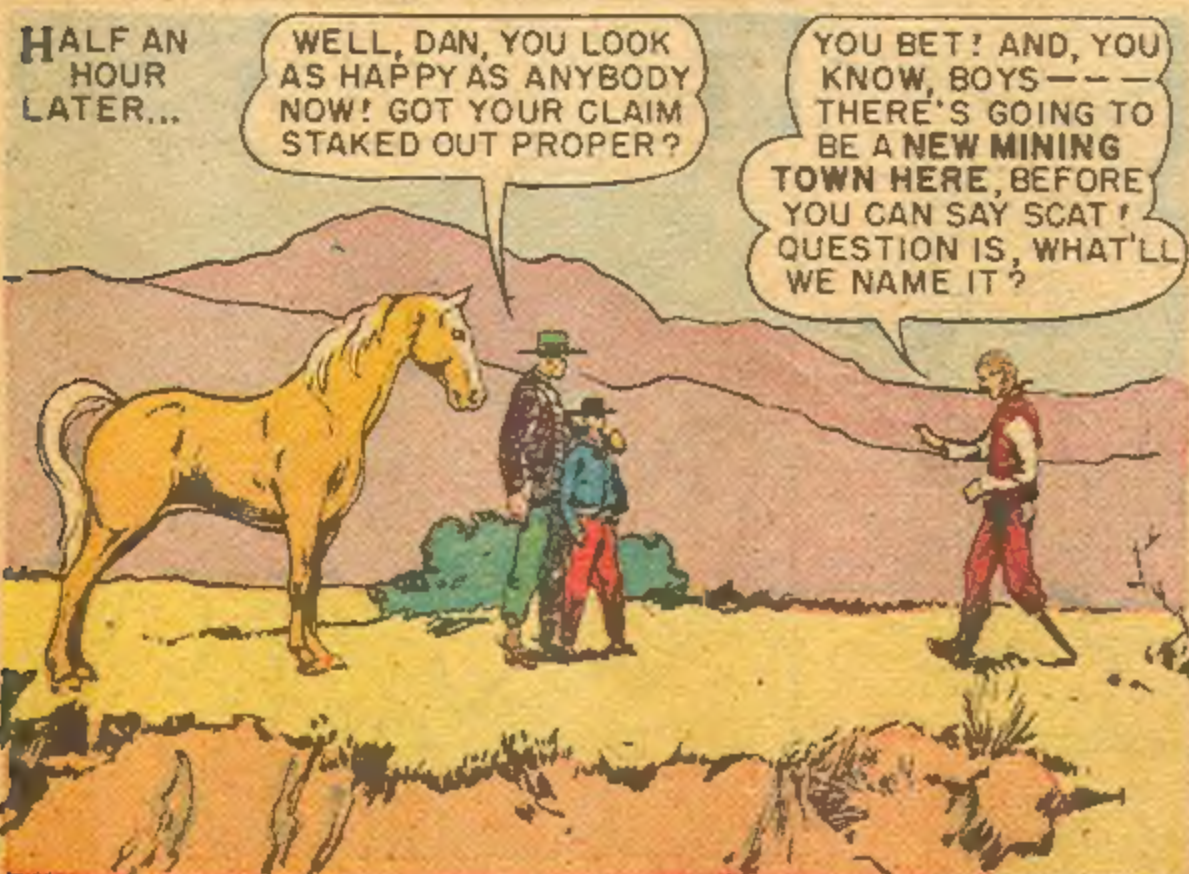


THIS WON'T TAKE LONG, CURLY--- SA-AY! LOOK WHAT I DUG UP!



IT'S ANOTHER GOLD NUGGET--- RIGHT NEAR WHERE WE FOUND THE OTHERS! BOY! IS THIS MY LUCKY DAY?









DE S.